

ANNALS OF IOWA

A HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

APRIL, 1941



PUBLISHED BY THE
IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

DES MOINES, IOWA

THIRD SERIES

VOL. XXII, No. 8

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

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In all ways the Department strives to present to the people of Iowa and the nation a true picture of the state. The *Annals of Iowa* is one medium through which the department seeks to gain this objective.

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ORA WILLIAMS, Curator

ANNALS OF IOWA

ORA WILLIAMS, Editor

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DES MOINES, IOWA, APRIL, 1941

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IOWA PIONEER LAWMAKERS' ASSOCIATION

BY KENNETH E. COLTON

The Twenty-seventh biennial meeting of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association convened in the Portrait Gallery of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, March 6, 1941, at 9:45 A. M., with H. S. Van Alstine of Gilmore City, president of the association, presiding.

Following the invocation offered by Reverend Deane Chapman, pastor of Wesley Methodist Church, Des Moines, a brief address of greetings and welcome was tendered the association by Governor George A. Wilson.

Preceding the secretary's report, two fine musical selections "Bless This House," and "Lassie of Mine," were offered by the E. Carl White Quartette, with Walter Coones in charge. Secretary Ora Williams announced that from the list of approximately four hundred men eligible, replies were received from fifty-eight that they expected to attend the current session of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, remarking that the unexpected snow of the previous night undoubtedly has delayed some and prevented others from attending. Others were unexpectedly detained by business, as was Governor Dan Turner, who was originally scheduled for the afternoon program, and letters from others of interest to the members were received which could be read later.

At the conclusion of the secretary's report, President Van Alstine delivered his presidential address, commenting that "in considering what I was going to say this morning, my observation has been that most or many of the talks at this

part of the meeting have been with reference to Iowa legislation. When I set to thinking about Iowa legislation, past, present and prospective, it did seem to me that there were other matters, so many other matters that were of so much more import to the world and probably to us that I would just drift into matters that pertained to the broader interests of the country, and so what remarks I have to make will be more of that nature."

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

To be permitted the honor of presiding at this 27th biennial meeting of the Pioneer Lawmakers is a pleasure.

In our "way of life" the laws governing conduct, are shaped by discussion, and the meeting of the minds of our legislators; and that legislative mind is largely influenced by the background of education, environment and opinions of the folks at home. The state legislator lives at home and never loses direct and personal contact with the community he represents. Some of my friends who have moved on to Congress or other higher official place, have often told me that in their experience, no other official relationship equals the State General Assembly in cordial good fellowship and life long friendships.

In our later years, we who have had the privilege of serving in the state legislature realize more and more that the chief and most enduring personal asset is the wealth of new acquaintances and friends that it brings to each of us. Our legislative deeds and words are soon forgotten. Even the laws we may have introduced and succeeded in passing, however salutary or important they may be, are soon buried in the code, and our identity of authorship is safely hidden, unless perchance some cub reporter happened to tag a contentious bill with the authors name, such as, "Titus Amendment," or "Cosson Law." But the good fellowship of our legislative associations continues through all our days, as one of the most enduring satisfactions of our life.

Usage seems to have given the word "Pioneer" a broader application than our lexicographers. Webster defines it as "one who goes before to prepare the way for another." The Standard Dictionary as "one among the first to: explore a country; aid a movement; exploit an understanding." Doubtless many of the Iowa Legislators could thus qualify; but it is fortunate for some of us that the only requirement for membership in the organization is to live long enough. However, we of these later days can fairly plead our handicaps to opportunity for blazing new legislative trails. Our forbears who had the initiative and courage to crystallize the age old longing for liberty, into signing the Declaration of Independence, and firing the "shot heard round the

world," and adopting our constitution and its "Bill of Rights," were the real Pioneers who charted the course of modern Democratic Statecraft.

These broad principles of self government have been followed by all of the sovereign states of our union, and by most other peoples who have adopted the democratic form of government.

The march of time has brought a succession of new ideas and inventions that have modified, and in some ways revolutionized our social and economic relationships. These changes have called for new laws, rules and regulations to meet the new conditions, and while our succeeding generations of state and national lawmakers have enacted volumes of statutory law, there has been little or no change in the basic principles of our constitution, as supplemented by the "Bill of Rights" amendments.

This background of orderly government, with its maximum of personal liberty under the law, has brought to our people a firm sense of established security in all constitutional and legal rights of person and of property.

Now that security is jeopardized by the most formidable group of autocratic usurpers of Despotic power in the history of the world. They have formed aggressive alliances, and openly declare their purpose to destroy all governments, "of the people, by the people and for the people." No such free government, or people is safe. Inventions of our civilization have bridged time and space and oceans,—and even now the malign shadow of that danger to any form of self government lies across our oceans and our hemisphere. Some of us may magnify, and some may minimize the menace to our government, and our "way of life." But no one questions that the danger is real. We may not be bombed, or overrun by mechanized armies. But if these aggressors succeed, we will have no such security, no such peace as we have always known. If we can survive as a nation; and preserve our liberties which we have always taken for granted as an inalienable right, we will be transformed into an armed camp. War preparation, on land and sea and in the air, will be our license to exist. Our freedoms of labor, of enterprise, of property, and of person will be a memory. Great Britain and her allies are making a desperate fight for survival. If they can hold long enough to wear down, and stop the totalitarian aggressors, the problems before us will still be serious. Whatever the outcome of the war, we will need wisdom and understanding, as never before, in this age.

There should be no experimenting with the tried fundamentals of our government. Our best course may be to "dig in" and try to hold what we have. Our objective should be to preserve the basic principle of self government, that, "government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed." This principle, with all its implications should be drilled into the minds of all our people, from the school, the pulpit, the rostrum, and the home fireside.

The test of our understanding, our wisdom, and our power in shaping the destiny of our nation, and the future welfare of the world, will come when the victors and the vanquished gather in a peace conference.

Whether we are drawn into this war or not, we must sit in that conference. And if we are wise, it will not be merely as a disinterested observer. Our voice and our influence will be needed to defend and support the cause of self government.

We should prepare ourselves and our people for this peace conference and the certain trials and sacrifices of the post war readjustments. Let us not repeat the mistakes of the World War peace conference. That World War, like most wars, started from the age old complications, cross purposes, self-serving interests, hates, economic pressures, and all the other elements of international discord inherent in the time honored "balance of power" diplomacy. From such sordid beginnings, the declared purpose of that war gradually developed into a crusade to make this a "war to end war," and to make the world "safe for democracy."

Our president was given credit for initiating the idea of incorporating in the peace covenant, a league of all nations to keep peace in the world. Some fifty odd nations subscribed to that league, and at the time it appeared that an overwhelming majority of our people, and our civic and business organizations, desired and expected our country to subscribe. A statutory majority of our senate, must, under our laws, pass on such treaties, and some members of that body, had, during the peace negotiations, become violently opposed to our approval of the covenant. This opposition included some members who had previously declared themselves in favor of such a league for peace. Four of these Senators, Borah of Idaho, Johnson of California, Lodge of Massachusetts, and Reed of Missouri were perhaps the most active and violent in their opposition, and finally succeeded in attaching reservations to the senate approval. This was perhaps the greatest disservice that any four men have ever given to their country and to the world, in modern times. It was said that President Wilson believed that this opposition was inspired more by personal pique, than conscientious objection to the measure, and he refused to approve the treaty with the senate reservations, and declared he would "take the issue to the country." That decision was doubtless the greatest mistake that President Wilson, or any president, ever made, either officially or personally. Officially, it prevented this country from subscribing to the league which it had sponsored from the beginning. Some years later, Ex-president Taft said, "Oh, if Wilson had only signed that covenant with reservations; we would have stood committed to the broad principles of the covenant, and we would have done our part." Such was the opinion of one of the great men of our times who was known throughout the world as an able jurist, and a sincere supporter of any and all proposals to advance the cause of peace among nations. Personally, that same decision started Wilson on his tour of "appeal to the country," for approval without

change so much as the "dot of an i or cross of a t" and which ended ignominiously with his tragic breakdown at Kansas City, and defeated this last supreme effort of a brilliant and eventful career. He returned to Washington a broken and discredited world figure. Never in modern times has any man or group of men had so great an opportunity to give the world a real chance to end war. Without that opposition of a small minority of senators the covenant would doubtless have been approved without reservations. And Wilson had his chance to accept the covenant with the reservations.

We may each offer our own conjecture as to how our refusal to join affected the work and life of the league. But it would now appear plain that our membership could not have made matters worse, and might have made the difference between success and failure of this great humanitarian effort to end war—the crime of the ages. And its success would have been the greatest boon to humanity, and to the welfare and security of our civilization since the coming of the Prince of Peace to this earth.

Unfortunately this opposition to the covenant brought the peace issue into our politics, and while each succeeding president, Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover openly espoused adherence to the world court, and at least tacitly favored joining the league of nations, our government stood aloof from any direct participation in any world peace movement. To those of us who were consistently opposed to war, and in favor of any and all proposals offering promise of judicial settlement of international differences, the very fact that our government, the original and chief sponsor of the league covenant, and the outstanding democracy who had taken part in that war, refused to subscribe, was a major handicap to the success of the league. That league functioned successfully as to all matters except the vital issue of militant aggression, and doubtless justified its existence by its contributions to the welfare of the people of the world. However, when there arose a crucial test of aggressive war, the league did not, successfully, meet the issue. While many and divergent considerations are always involved in such issues, it seems only fair to members of the league, to consider whether any circumspect nation of the world would be at all likely to attempt to exercise the police power provided by the league, or impose sanctions on the offending powers, when the United States, with the greatest potential military force, and the greatest reservoir of food, and military stores, had not only refused to subscribe to its own peace plan, but stood ready to sell these supplies to any and all who had the price, whether that purchaser be the offender or defender of the peace of the world. It is well for us to review this inconsistent and tragic record before we approach participation in another world peace conference.

The peace of Versailles has been severely criticised, but we should recognize, that every such conference is a compromise between conflicting ideas and interests, and the almost insuperable difficulty of

inducing the victors to be really fair and equitable toward the vanquished. And when sponsors of the central powers complain of the severe terms of that treaty, it might be wholesome to ask them what kind of treaty they think would have been written had the victory been reversed. Even our revered constitution was a compromise, of which Benjamin Franklin said, "It probably satisfies no one, but it is the best we could do." Both our constitution and the league of nations covenant carried a provision for amendment. Fortunately, our people have had the wisdom and common sense to exercise that right to amend, instead of abandoning the whole instrument.

The idea of such a league was not new. Along about the beginning of the century, our own President Theodore Roosevelt, in the course of an address, made the following statement.

"The one permanent move for obtaining peace which has yet been suggested with any reasonable chance of obtaining its object is by an agreement among the great powers, in which each should pledge itself not only to abide by the decisions of a common tribunal but to back with force the decisions of that common tribunal. The great civilized nations of the world which do not possess force actually or immediately potential should combine by solemn agreement in a great world league for a peace of righteousness."

It is interesting to observe that in this short statement, President Roosevelt incorporated not only the purpose and scope of such an agreement, but the real essence and import of the Versailles league covenant, including, the contentious Article Ten. And he specifically disclaimed authorship of the idea. Thus we find that the most righteous humanitarian ideas are as old as our records of rightminded men.

One thing seems plain, if wars are to continue, our civilization **WILL DESTROY ITSELF WITH THE MECHANICS OF ITS OWN CREATION**. It is axiomatic that "self-preservation is the first law of life;" it would seem that very law, and plain common sense, would impel civilized people to abandon war. One such hopeful sign in the present war is that all belligerents have thus far refrained from using poison gas. We can hardly credit this to humanitarian motives, and the plausible reason is that each side fears retaliation.

Most opponents of proposals for world peace, eloquently profess opposition to war, and advocate peace, but consistently oppose any and every plan that has any reasonable prospect of adoption. One of their stock arguments is that there "always has been and always will be war," that to fight is "human nature," and that human nature "does not change." If this were true, Darwin would never have written his "Origin of Species." They do not seem to be able to discriminate between the æons of evolutionary change and the relatively short time for change in human habits and conduct. No longer do civilized peoples use

the torture chamber, and within the memory of living men slavery has been outlawed. Dueling has been discredited and abolished in all civilized or even semi-civilized countries, excepting only that one country which has now produced a worthy successor to Attila the Hun. A civilization that can establish law and order WITHIN the boundaries of nations, can establish law and order BETWEEN those nations. When we wrote the Canadian boundary treaty with England, we razed the forts and beached the warships from a 3000 mile boundary line, and for 150 years have showed the doubting world what could be done. Just as long as a majority of people think it can't be done, it won't be. But when a majority think it can be done, it will be. Ideas are stronger than force, and Socrates statement that "the mind is master of the man," is still true.

Probably analagous to participation in the league would be our good neighbor policy toward our central and South American Republics. It would seem that a consistent isolationist could find more real or imaginary danger, in an agreement to defend all these nations, than was involved in joining with all nations in the league. We have long been committed to the "Monroe Doctrine," and the recent Declaration of Lima, creates a definite additional obligation. Britian has been a tacit supporter of the Monroe Doctrine, and her fleet has been a very helpful factor in our defense of that doctrine. Should her naval control of the Atlantic pass to unfriendly hands, we would be obliged to strengthen our sea power in those waters. A reciprocal defensive understanding with these southern republics is manifestly important to our potential supply of tropical products and some essential war materials. But will our isolationists consent to carry through, or will they renege as they did on the World court and League issues.

A democratic government is always "on trial" before the court of its citizenship. If government is not satisfactory the people have the power to change. Our government has been called "an economic political system, which is giving the largest number of people living in an area the greatest amount of personal liberty possible, with the highest standard of living available out of the economic energy and the resources of that country." That sounds like a good definition of our kind of government, and a right good place to live. Our people do have more of the things that all peoples want, than any other people on this earth. One reason is, that they live and operate under a free capitalistic system of individual reward for individual effort. The individual freedoms of capitalism fits into the freedoms of our democratic government to the demonstrated advantage of all, the capitalist, the laborer and the consumer. Like all human devices the capitalistic system is not perfect. But it does afford the average citizen more of the necessities, conveniences and luxuries of life than any other plan yet devised by our civilization. The coming post war readjustment may be the opportune time to improve it. Doubtless its chief weakness lies in the so-called "business

cycle," which involves violent fluctuations in commodity values during the boom and depression ends of that cycle. For long, economists and financiers have tried to find a remedy, or devise some plan that would tame the speculative boom end, and modify the impact of the price toboggan end. The suggestion which has apparently found most favor is a "commodity dollar" based on the average value of the commodities used in making current price index, and which would purpose to maintain the relative exchange value of the money token, and of commodities. The "commodity dollar" idea has been studied and endorsed by many individuals and organizations, including the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. The advantages are plain to all, but many doubt, and others say it would not work. Most students of the problem seem to be able to favorably follow the commodity dollar idea only to the international boundary lines. There they meet complications. The war and post war eventualities may simplify or obliterate this obstacle. Germany now disclaims interest in gold for use as money. We have the major part of the world's monetary gold, and it is still coming. If the world tries to return to the old financial basis, it will be necessary for us to consent to a redistribution of monetary gold in order to give other nations sufficient gold for use as monetary standard. How will that be done? All the great industrial nations are now wasting their substance and exhausting their resources in war. What will they have to offer in exchange for our gold? Will our people consent to lend it, or give it, for the prospect of resuming foreign trade? If not, these nations may be driven to devise other ways to facilitate exchange of commodities. If they do that, what will our gold profit us? (And we might ask, what does our buried gold profit us now?) Gold is a commodity,—just one of the 570 odd commodities used in making our commodity price index.

When general business and financial conditions are normal and reasonably constant, gold serves equitably and well; but not so during the swing of the business cycle. For long our orators have reechoed that "our dollar rings true on every counter in the world." But we who have experienced the "boom" and "depression" swings of the business cycle know that is not true. The real "value" of the dollar is measured by the commodities for which it will exchange. A dollar that will today buy twice as much of the average of all commodities than it did a short time past, does not ring true on any counter. It isn't an honest dollar. And we who have lived long enough to be members of this organization know the tragic process from sad experience. When prices are advancing the laborer receives less and less goods for his dollar. He becomes dissatisfied and may demand, or strike for higher wages and get a raise. But the relief is temporary. So long as the "business cycle" moves up, he must ask again and again. During this same period of advancing prices business and profits are good. Everyone wants to buy. Business men are happy and making obligations at the prevailing higher and

higher prices. Eventually the business cycle reaches its top and turns. Then the laborer has his turn of good times. So long as he continues to get this higher wage, the declining prices enable him to buy more and more goods with his dollars. But the man who has debts to pay, finds that the declining prices do not bring enough dollars for his goods, to pay bills. Those debts are static, and payable in dollars. He has just as much goods to sell as when the debt was made, but the goods bring less dollars.

The "orbit" of the business cycle is well known. The upward swing may start from any good ordinary business conditions, when most business is profitable. Then some optimists may think business will be better and prices higher, and start buying; others see the profits being made and buy, and the "business cycle" is on, with prices moving up and up. This continues until some of the more cautious speculators begin to wonder if it isn't about time to take their profits, and they commence to sell. Others follow. Then everyone wants to sell, and no one wants to buy. Business stagnates, factories close, debtors cannot pay their bills, people lose faith in everyone and everything except money, and that is the one thing most difficult to get. Most of those who do have it, hoard and hide, instead of buying property at any price. The depression is on. These symptoms are well known, but in the halcyon bull market times, no one wants to see or hear a danger signal. Many of you will doubtless recall that prior to the 1929 debacle, President Coolidge, sounded a warning note, and for that was roundly criticised from all sides. Spokesmen for big business declared that we had reached a "new order" of business, and some called it a "new dispensation," but I do not recall that any one mentioned the "new deal."

There is nothing new about the "business cycle" with its optimism, advancing prices, good times, and dizzy heights, and then its devastating fall to depression depths, which marks its chronology in the memory of its victims and in our records of economic and financial disasters. We had our first major depression about 1816, and again in 1837, again in 1857, again in 1873, then in 1893, and the one we all know, of 1929. During these times there were minor financial pressures, the most severe being the so-called Currency Panic of 1907, but none of which had the devastating effect of a major financial convulsion. The devastating forces of a periodic "business cycle" threatens the very foundation of our capitalistic system. The business world wonders whether Chaos or Kosmos will emerge. Thus far we have always recovered, but at a terrific cost in financial casualties. The tragic records of this last and prior depressions show the need of a more constant and equitable medium of exchange. Gold is not a sacred standard of value. "Money" is merely a token of value that we have devised to facilitate the exchange of goods. What we want, is that token or device that will best serve the purpose. The advocates of the commodity dollar believe it would automatically rise and fall with the commodity index level. If so then

the wage or salary dollar would have a relatively constant purchasing power with the average commodity price, and the debtors dollar would have a relative constant debt paying power. The "business cycle" would lose its terrors. It would be a boon to all business, and particularly to banks, insurance companies, and all fiduciaries of trust funds. Again we hear, "it can't be done." Maybe so, but unless we build when and where we can, we may not hold the good we have.

We prize our democracy, and have shed our blood to make the world safe for democracy; yet we tolerate filibustering in our United States Senate.

We allow that august body to debauch the first principles of democracy, by making rules that permits one senator to frustrate the will of the majority, and that in utter disregard of the wishes or rights of the people. There is no constitutional or legislative authority for this. It is an authority assumed by the senate under the usual privilege granted to legislative bodies to adopt their own rules of procedure. It is safe to say the framers of the constitution never dreamed that any senator or senators selected to represent a democratic people or state, would have the assurance to deliberately subvert the proper purpose of rules, to grant to each and every senator the autocratic right to frustrate or defeat the will of the majority. Any such undemocratic rule would be overwhelmingly rejected by a vote of the people, or by the vote of any other legislative body in the land, including the House of Representatives. Yet we tolerate it. It would be ludicrous, were it not so tragic to see "The greatest deliberative body in the world" in action during a "filibuster." One strong winded "senator" talking against time to empty seats. And talking about what? The long chances are it won't be the pending bill, nor anything remotely relevant. He may, and usually does talk about airy nothings until his talk, and time, defeats the will of the majority, and the will of the people. That august body, (which has also been dubbed the most exclusive club in the world) not only made the rule, but they love it and defend it. Never yet have I heard or known of anyone outside that body approve or defend it; nor have I ever heard or known of a member who disapproved of it, or would consent to relinquish it. It is a most unfortunate example of autocratic inconsistency, and I would like to hear from some of those senators, how they can consistently refuse to grant autocratic powers to others. Don't they know that in this democracy, all men are created equal? That august body might well take warning from the fate of Britain's House of Lords, which lost pretty much all connection with the government, except their membership card. We may hope that some day the senators will voluntarily remove this travesty they impose on our democratic government.

Our best protection against the enemies of our democracy is to make and keep this country of ours the best place on this earth for common people to live. And its up to these selfsame common people to do the

job. No one can do it for them. Our government is no richer or better than its people. If we want to ruin our coming generations of common people, teach our youth that they have a paternal government that owes them a good living, and security from all the unpredictable ills and vicissitudes of life, and a pension when too old to enjoy the other bounties,—you will have a nation of irresponsible malingerers. If “security” or “social justice” means giving the earning of the industrious and competent to the lazy and incompetent, then our Benjamin Franklins and all other exponents of our time tried teachings of good citizenship have been wrong. What made this country a “land of promise” to all hopeful peoples of the world? Not alone its national resources. Other countries had as much. Not conquest and loot. Our forbears found “rock bound coasts” and a wilderness to subdue. It was “*Democracy*” in government with all its implications. Democracy in education. Democracy in labor, Democracy in industry, Democracy in opportunity, Democracy in all activities of life, and Democracy in the hearts and souls of our people. Our forbears conceived and by their example, precept and laws, ordained and established the foundations of our economic future. Thou shalt earn thy bread by the sweat of thy brow was a benediction, not a curse. It was the first principle of progress and human welfare. The only worth while help, is to help one to help himself. The every day rewards of industry and initiative will do the rest. Teach our growing generations; that our individual freedoms are the most precious possession we have and must be preserved and protected against impairment by either foreign aggression or surrender by ourselves. That wealth comes only from productive labor. That the more we produce, the more there is to divide among all; that the busiest people get the most out of life. That no nation ever went into decay from the productive industry of its people; and that in this democracy of ours we the people own the government, and that we ourselves are responsible for all that is done. That individual ownership of our city and farm homes is our safest assurance of social and political stability, and the best bulwark against all the “isms” of the soap box brigade, or any other menace to our good way of life. That the most inspiring and important message coming to us from past ages is that mankind is on the upward way, and that not-with-standing the Attilas and the Gengis Khans and the Hitlers, our world is slowly but surely making a better way of life for all.

Immediately at the conclusion of his address, President Van Alstine appointed Emory H. English, I. A. Smith, and J. E. Craven to serve as the nominating committee to select officers for the next two years, to report prior to the noon recess.

Forthwith the meeting proceeded with the impromptu speeches, recollections, or comments on legislative activity or

of legislative contemporaries. Emory H. English of Des Moines volunteered observations upon a prominent contemporary as follows:

I have long wanted to say just a word about a man in my recollection. He was in the House long before I was a member of the House. I came in the Twenty-Ninth General Assembly, in 1902. Prior to that time I was a committee clerk in the House. One of the representatives from Polk County was a farmer, lived near the small town where I ran the newspaper. He was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, and I was appointed his committee clerk. While I was around the Assembly Mr. Funk of Iowa Falls was the Speaker of one of those sessions, and Dr. Bowen, of Waukon, was the Speaker in the other session. But prior to that session there was a man Speaker of the House that seemed to me then and later to tower above the average legislator both in ability and in tact and in success in the things that he worked for, and I want to refer to Web Byers.

As a young man sitting around as a committee clerk less than thirty years old you are bound to watch older men and how they perform. I had a very sincere admiration for how Web Byers handled the House as its Speaker. And later on he came back as the member from Shelby County in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Assembly, and he and Rush Clark over there sat near each other and were boon companions. But Web was just as resourceful a man on the floor as he was as Speaker.

I simply want to say that in my knowledge—the three sessions that I was in the General Assembly and before and since—I have not known a man—except those here, of course—who seemed to me measured up to the duties and the matters that were before the Assembly and the needs of the hour better than our friend Web Byers. I have always kind of had that in my heart and I wanted to say it some time, whether it goes in the record or not. I just want to pay that tribute to Web, because I believe, as the saying is, he had the goods and usually delivered them.

President Van Alstine observed that “most any of us that ever knew Mr. Byers would recognize when he took a position you knew what his position was and you knew who he was. He made himself felt.”

Judge H. J. Mantz, of Audubon, added his recollection of Web Byers from personal observation as a young man: “I recall as a boy his trying cases in court. I would drift into the court room. And when it came to handling the jury, he was just simply a past master. He was an outstanding man, an able man. I heard a lawyer one day say that in intellectual

ability he usually began thinking where the other fellow left off."

C. E. Nary of Spirit Lake called the attention of the members to his personal friend, an acquaintance of all present, the late Senator A. B. Funk, remarking that "one of my early recollections of Senator Funk in a political way was at the time of the Cummins-Perkins contest, and we all know what an enthusiast he was for Senator Cummins and how successful he was. In later years," Nary continued, "I used to have considerable fun at the expense of Mr. Funk in my visits with him, because while he fought strenuously for the primary law at the time of the Cummins contest, he later became quite convinced that he had been wrong, and if any of you talked to him about the primary law afterwards you learned that he would often say 'wonderful in theory but terrible in practice.' I don't know whether we all quite agree with that, but we do know that there are many abuses in the handling of governmental affairs that have come about by reason of the primary law, and that was one of the things that the Senator regretted."

Mr. Nary concluded by endorsing the opinions of Web Byers previously expressed. William G. Kerr, of Grundy Center, also concurred in that consensus, adding that "he was absolutely incorruptible," and that many would "like to have seen him made Attorney General of the United States. He was talked of for that place, but he never felt he was worthy of it."

Among others who expressed themselves concerning Mr. Byers was F. A. Garber of Leon. He observed that there was "another person who was a prominent speaker in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth General Assemblies," James B. Weaver. Recounting an incident from recollection, Mr. Garber recalled that on occasion of their meeting at the state house at one of those sessions he addressed Weaver with the observation, "Jim, I have just been looking at the Allison monument, and it made me think of something I heard your father say." To Mr. Weaver's inquiry as to what it was, Garber replied, "He said 'William B. Allison is a sly old fox,

but his hand was as cold as a fish's tail.' " Jim Weaver then exclaimed, "Oh, I am no martyr like father was."

E. J. Bradley of Eldon paid tribute to the elder James B. Weaver as a "man of culture, a colossal brain, a gentleman and a scholar of the laws and the fundamental doctrine of constitutional law of this country."

Of others who had long been members of the association but who passed away within the last two years, Emory H. English recalled the friendship between Senator A. B. Funk and Ex-Governor Warren Garst, and related the legislative teamwork of Warren Garst and Funk, the one chairman of the appropriations committee, the other chairman of the ways and means committee, when Funk sought and succeeded in having B. F. Carroll placed on his committee by exchange.

Notice was also made of the death of R. J. Bixby, John C. Flenniken, and Wallace Arney, as well as of the sickness of John Hale and John Lister.

Secretary Williams then read extracts of letters received from members unable to attend, more extensively reported at the conclusion of this summary.

E. J. Bradley then took opportunity to urge upon the association that the list of former legislators appearing in the next Official Iowa Register be made to include the name of every individual who ever served the state in that capacity, rather than only those who have served since 1915. A motion to that effect received the approval of the meeting, and by a further vote the President, H. S. Van Alstine, and Harry White of Vinton, together with George M. Titus were selected as that committee.

The nominating committee brought in their report submitted by Emory H. English, chairman, as follows:

President, Ray P. Scott of Marshalltown

Vice-President, Henry L. Adams of Des Moines

Secretary, Ora Williams, Des Moines

District vice-presidents nominated for nine districts—not knowing what the reapportionment might be—were:

J. M. Brockaway, Muscatine; C. F. Clark, Cedar Rapids; N. W. Beebe, Hampton; Carl W. Reed, Cresco; Frank Shane,

Ottumwa; H. T. Saberson, Des Moines; George W. Van Camp, Greenfield; W. W. Goodykontz, Boone; C. E. Narey, Spirit Lake.

The Executive Committee of the Association was announced as composed of John C. De Mar, Minneapolis; H. S. Van Alstine, Gilmore City; George M. Titus, Muscatine; and R. G. Clark, Des Moines.

On the motion of George M. Titus the report was unanimously adopted.

With Secretary Williams' statement that dinner was to be served members in the historical library, and that the General Assembly was to receive them in joint session that afternoon, the association stood at recess until 2 P. M. to meet in the Law Library of the State House.

AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE IOWA PIONEER LAWMAKERS' ASSOCIATION

The afternoon session, meeting with the General Assembly in the House Chamber, was called to order by President Hickelooper, who addressed the session briefly before introducing the E. Carl White Quartette, who sang the official Iowa State Song, "The Song of Iowa," by Major S. H. M. Byers.

State Senator Leo A. Elthon then briefly welcomed the Pioneers Lawmakers. Following his remarks Representative Irwin of Keokuk saluted Arch W. McFarlane, who was not only an eligible member of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, but who was then serving as an able representative from Black Hawk County in the 49th General Assembly, having previously served both as a State Senator and as Lieutenant Governor of the state. Being brought to the Speaker's platform, Representative McFarlane responded briefly to the recognition accorded him. Representative A. H. Avery of Clay County next welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House of Representatives, paying tribute to the tradition of lawmaking and legislative procedure of which he felt they were the heirs and guardians.

Hon. John A. Storey, of Des Moines responded first, on behalf of the Association, and recalled incidents from his first

experiences in the legislature, in the Twentieth and the Twenty-first assemblies:

The Twentieth General Assembly met in the old Capitol Building just across the way where the Soldiers' Monument now stands. We met, organized by electing Mr. Wolf, of Cedar County, Speaker, and the chief clerk and other employees, and then in a few days we moved over to this magnificent building. So the Twentieth General Assembly was the last to meet in the old Capitol Building and the first to meet in this magnificent one.

The hall in which we met in the old building, especially by its seats and desks, reminded me of the little old country schoolhouse I attended some eighty years ago. This magnificent building was like Heaven—wonderful!

While it was magnificent, we did not enjoy all the benefits that you members of the Forty-ninth now enjoy. For example, we did not vote then by pushing a button. We had to answer a roll call. Then, too, no single member of the House had a clerk. Possibly a half dozen clerks in the House, serving the most important committees. Now you have, as I understand it, about eleven employes looking after the doors. You have, I guess, one hundred or more stenographers and typewriters to look after your bills and amendments and your correspondence. Then, if I remember correctly, there was no typewritten bill introduced in that House—all by longhand, and we carried on our correspondence in the same manner.

So far as the ability of the members of the General Assembly to serve, I think they probably were average, compared with this or several General Assemblies. There were some men then noted in the State as members of the House. For example, I will mention ex-Governor Carpenter, who then had come from Webster County to serve as a member of the House. It made me think of John Quincy Adams, once President of the United States, later serving his country as a member of Congress. Now while the office in each case might seem less important, yet they were both honorably served.

Other prominent members of the House were General Tuttle, of Polk County; Colonel Clayton, of Pottawattamie County; Captain Head, who became Speaker of the House of the Twenty-first General Assembly. And there was Captain Lyons, of Guthrie County, who afterwards became Auditor of State. Then there was Captain Watrous, a prominent business man in Des Moines. There was a Mr. Kerr, of Grundy, who afterwards served for a number of years in the United States Congress. Then there was Silas Weaver, of Hardin County, I believe, chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Twentieth, and later served for many years with honor on the Supreme Bench of the State of Iowa. So you see there were some prominent people then. Others became prominent later. Some of the members were afterwards elected as District Judges throughout different parts of the State. I don't know

so much about the Senate in the General Assembly, but I do know that there were two of the most prominent lawyers of the State in the Senate of that Assembly—Mills of Davenport, and Hall of Burlington. Then there was another Senator—I don't recall his name, but he was later appointed United States District Judge in Iowa.

There were, of course, other able men, but I cannot take up your time to speak of any more. I will speak shortly about some of the legislation that took place in the Twentieth General Assembly. One of the important bills was a bill providing that we pay our taxes semi-annually in place of annually as they had to do before. The bill passed the Senate, came to the House and was defeated—fought bitterly. On the roll call at that time, when it got down near the bottom of the roll, one member, myself, voted against the bill, although I had promised to vote for it. The manager of that bill in the House came and called me down for changing my mind. I told him I hadn't, just to watch. And as soon as the vote was announced I moved to reconsider. That night we went to work and persuaded a number of those who had voted against it to change their minds and to vote for it, and the bill the next day passed, and it is the law today.

Another important matter that probably attracted the attention of the people throughout the State was the Prohibitory Law. As you know, the people of Iowa had ratified an amendment to the Constitution providing for prohibition in Iowa and providing that the next legislature should pass laws necessary to put it in force. It was a matter that took considerable debate. We found on canvassing we had just fifty-one votes, Republicans, that would vote for the bill. It only took fifty-one votes at that time to pass a bill in the House. So we felt easy until just about the time for the bill to come up when Mr. Weaver, that I have heretofore mentioned, took sick and was sick in bed. And in order to gain that fifty-one votes that we thought we were sure of we carried him in on a stretcher and put him down on the floor in front of the clerk's desk. But when the roll was finally called one Democrat, I think the member from Montgomery, although I don't recall his name, voted with us and the Prohibitory Law was passed.

Another matter that I might speak of, but very briefly. At that time we only had one insane asylum in the State of Iowa. A bill was introduced to locate one in Southwestern Iowa. It was fought by members from Central Iowa who tried to amend the bill and have it located in West Central Iowa. But after considerable fighting they got it through the House and it became a law. They said they were going to build a cottage plan asylum. But when the Twenty-first was reached they reported they had a foundation laid for a central building for that asylum. They wanted an appropriation to continue building that. In sort of sport I moved a bill to provide that we should appropriate

\$15,000 to box up that foundation and preserve it until a more favorable date was reached to erect the building. So that the matter was passed.

Before I take up the Twenty-first, I want to say that one of our most constant and faithful visitors in the Twentieth General Assembly was Mr. Finkbine, of Des Moines, who was the superintendent or supervisor of the construction of this magnificent building. He was proud of his work, and we were proud of him. It stands, it seems to me, as a monument to the memory of that honest and faithful servant of Iowa, for no whisper was ever uttered against any acts or matters of his. The Twentieth General Assembly, as I told you before, had elected a Speaker. The Chief Clerk was Sidney A. Foster, the author of that wonderful slogan at a later time, "Of all that is good Iowa affords the best." Sid was a good clerk. Later he and Governor Jackson and Gib Pray, then clerk of the Supreme Court, organized the Royal Union Life Insurance Company, which lasted for many years, did a great business, but finally failed—probably after the old managers of it had passed away.

The Legislature of the Twenty-first General Assembly don't impress me as anything very special. There were only, as I said, a few new members. Many of the old members of the Twentieth General Assembly were returned to the Twenty-first. But there were one or two new members that I do feel that I ought to mention. One was Bob Cousins, in the House from Cedar County—a very quiet, inoffensive young man, who was a member of the House, who, as you may know, was later elected as a member of Congress and attained to a national reputation as an orator.

In the Senate one new member that I recall was Lafayette Young, for a long time owner and editor of the Des Moines Capital, and who for a short time served as a member of the United States Senate.

There is one matter in the Twenty-first General Assembly that I am not very proud of, and I don't think it added any special glory to the memory of the Twenty-first. Serious charges were preferred in the House against our State Auditor. We had two Judiciary Committees then. The charges were referred to No. 2 Judiciary Committee. They held secret sessions, taking the evidence, excluding newspaper reporters and everybody else except witnesses and members of the committee and possibly the members who preferred the charges. They finally brought in a report recommending that State Auditor Brown should be impeached. I as chairman of No. 1 Judiciary Committee opposed it, said "we have had no evidence; you men sat in secret session; we don't know what the evidence is. I don't feel like voting on this bill without knowing something about what the charges are and what the evidence was." But the House, as I say, voted for impeachment. A committee was appointed to conduct a trial before the State Senate. I refused to take any part in that, declined to act as prosecutor with the other members of the committee on that charge. The Senate of

the Twenty-first General Assembly found State Auditor Brown not guilty. But it cost the State of Iowa over \$40,000. Thank you, gentlemen.

At the conclusion of Judge Storey's remarks, former Senator George M. Titus, member of the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth sessions, addressed the joint convention and assembly, noting that his health was better than ever, for one who could remember as a youth in New York State the days of the Civil War. Commenting on Judge Storey's allusion to the new state capitol building first used by the Twentieth General Assembly, Senator Titus began his talk by recounting the following incident in connection with the appropriation of funds to build:

The first appropriation of a million and a half was made by the Thirteenth General Assembly. Then, as now, Des Moines people were awake to their own interests, and the members of the General Assembly were dined and wined and entertained, the purpose being to get that appropriation of a million and a half to build this fine building, to start it. Some of the members, we are told, held back quite a while, because they got more dinners by waiting. And finally the people got so interested in that appropriation that the Chaplain made it part of every prayer, and in this body, the House, the Chaplain petitioned the Almighty to put it into the minds of these statesmen to build a suitable building for this grand old State of Iowa. And we are told that a member of this House got the floor and said, "Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a resolution." He was recognized by the Speaker. "I will read the resolution. 'Resolved, that in the future Chaplains praying for the passage of bills shall take them in the order they appear on the calendar.' " Finally the bill was passed, and we are all glad of this wonderful building. As I look it over, the time since I was here, seems to me the decorations have got much more handsome than when we were here.

Inquiring of the convention how many knew Senator William B. Allison, Senator Titus continued by observing:

I want to remind you today of what a wonderful statesman he seemed to be. While not always agreeing with him, but away back, some of us young fellows having reached the smart age, decided that the tariff ought to be revised. We went to Washington and called on Senator Allison. He said, "Mr Titus, how are things in Iowa?" I said, "Agriculturally they are all right, but if you pass the McKinley Bill as introduced, I don't know what will happen." It did pass, and we only elected four Republican congressmen. But the final result was that it made McKinley President in 1896.

And years ago when "Pitchfork" Tillman, a Democratic Senator from North or South Carolina, came to Muscatine to lecture at our Chautauqua, it was my business to take him up on the stage. And I said to him, "Senator Tillman, what do you think of our man Senator Allison?" He turned to me and he said, "Mr. Titus, what do I think of Senator Allison? My God, I love that man." And he brought his hand over and put it on mine and held it for two or three minutes. He said, "Mr. Titus, Senator Allison plays on that Senate like the lady plays on the piano. Anything that the old man wants he can have."

Senator Dolliver I regard as one of the best campaigners this State ever had. I remember hearing him in a campaign speech, remember hearing him talking about the soil in the Eastern country. He said, "I was back in New England, and I cannot understand how they raise anything back there. I've walked past the cemetery, and the sexton was digging a grave. I went in to see how deep the soil was, and I asked the sexton how they raised anything in that soil. And his reply was, 'We fertilize.' 'You fertilize?' 'Yes, we even fertilize the cemetery.' 'Fertilize the cemetery? What do you fertilize the cemetery for?' He said, 'We feel that it would help out in the resurrection.' "

The high spot in the General Assembly when I came here was backing a measure that finally was passed and became the law of the land. Senator Emmert of Atlantic said to me—he was one time president of the State Board of Health—he says, "I have got a little bill here that I want you to help me on, Senator Titus. It is a bill requiring the testing of cattle brought into this State for tuberculosis." I said, "Why, I don't know anything about tuberculosis in cows." And he said he wasn't getting some votes. I stepped into the library and Johnson Brigham gave me the report of the Massachusetts Commission in which it stated they had just paid \$275,000 for the cows they killed that could not stand the tubercular test.

Well, I took that book over to the hotel and I read until two o'clock, realizing what an advantage I would have when the bill was attacked on the floor. And I remember the language of Senator Bolter when he got the floor after Senator Emmert had presented the bill. He said, "Mr. President, I have been a member of this General Assembly for sixteen years, but this is the first time that I ever knew of the State being asked to chase microbes and bacilli. There stands the Senator from Woodbury, six feet two in his stocking feet. Where in the name of God would he have grown if he had been nourished with milk after the microbes and bacilli had been killed? Mr. President, I see on the border line between Iowa and Missouri a guard that has a lariat in one hand and a tuberculin tester in the other. Here comes a Missouri farmer with his cows. 'Halt' says the guard. He lariats the cows and he sticks the tuberculin tester into one of the animals and says, 'Take your cow home. She has consumption.' "

While that sort of ridicule kept going on I had my book there, and after all the attacks on the bill had been made I just proceeded to read from my book that the State of Massachusetts paid \$275,000 for cows they killed after examination for tuberculosis in Massachusetts, and then that the Royal Commission of England had decided that tuberculosis in cows was the same as in human beings.

The bill failed by two votes. I remember Senator Emmert said, "Senator Titus, the time will come when all cows will be tested." I notice by the last report of the Department of Agriculture that that is the fact, that now tuberculosis in cattle is almost unknown. That was of great interest to me, as I was able at that time by reason of this book to meet the situation, and now it is an accomplished fact.

When I came to the legislature my partner said, "Now you are going up there, why not get rid of so much politics? We just go through one campaign and then we start in on another." I consulted with the older members here and they said, "Yes, such should be the law." I said, "Let's do it." Nobody seemed to do it, so I went into the library and read the constitution of every state in the Union and found that only ten states had annual elections, including Iowa, and I introduced the resolution, after having prepared it and submitted it to Judge Deemer, who sat at the same table with me at the old Savery Hotel.

Well, here is where the excitement comes. I had no idea that that would attract any particular attention, but I found myself quite famous, and the resolution passed the General Assembly, and it passed the next General Assembly, was voted on and carried by 30,000. And then someone attacked its validity. It was defeated by the Supreme Court, and passed again, and in 1900 became the law, and we have biennial instead of annual elections, in the state every other year, saving \$450,000 at least.

I want to tell you what happened in the Constitutional Amendments Committee at that time—made up of lawyers—Judge Blanchard, George Allyn, Charlie Mullan of Waterloo—all lawyers. They said to me, "If this resolution is to pass and we are to have biennial elections instead of annual, we will elect all the officers at the same time."

I said, "Our plan is to have a four year term, and elect one-half at one biennial period and the other half at the other—at the next biennial period." Now I felt it not out of place, since there is a bill before this General Assembly changing to four year terms, to tell you that it was the plan of the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Assemblies—the plan of the committee—that we should have a four year term. And while you are doing that, what is the objection to a resolution to be passed by this General Assembly providing for a four year term for the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor and the officers governed by the Constitution? If it is passed by the next General Assembly and becomes a law, you will have carried out what was the in-

tention of the General Assembly that passed the first resolution providing for biennial elections.

Now I have taken considerable time, but I want to finish what I have to say by telling you a true story on this long, long trail that I have traveled. Discontent strikes people and they become dissatisfied. I know in '88 I felt that Muscatine was too small for my caliber. But I stayed right there, and I want to tell you a true story as I have told the Pioneer Lawmakers and just as I tell you here today, and then I will be through.

Several years ago Mrs. Titus and I went to Europe. Not speaking any but the English language we decided that we would rather go in a party and be conducted. We selected a Tourist Company that only permitted about fifteen. When we arrived at New York we found that of those fifteen six were from Philadelphia, four from Evansville, Indiana, two from New Haven, two from Camden, New Jersey, one from Toledo, and Mrs. Titus and myself from Muscatine. For the first time in my life I felt the embarrassment of coming from a rather insignificant or unknown city. They asked me how Muscatine was spelled. And when I said it was an Indian name they asked me if there were Indians there then. And Mrs. Titus suggested that we should have registered from Chicago. And I am telling you this story because you may find this out about the town where you live. You may discover a good deal that you don't know about.

One evening when we were together someone asked if I had read the book, "Pigs is Pigs." And I said, "Yes, that was written by Ellis Parker Butler, who lives in my town."

And on another evening they spoke of the wonderful company that made Royal Baking Powder. And I said, "Will Ziegler got that formula for the Royal Baking Powder from a steamboat captain in Muscatine, and he started his career manufacturing it in a drug store in Muscatine." When we got over to Amsterdam I excused myself from the crowd and said, "We are going to call on the U. S. Counsul, he is a friend of ours from Muscatine, Frank Mahin, a brother of John Mahin."

When we were coming down through France one of the gentlemen called my attention to a sign out in the field, "H. J. Heinz—57 Varieties," and said "That is a wonderful institution, advertised all over the world." "Yes," I said, "It is, and the largest branch outside of Pittsburgh is located in my town." When we got to Paris I said, "A friend of mine is living near here in a large chateau on an estate. If I knew where it was I would go to see her." Our names were published in the Paris edition of the New York Herald, and this lady happened to be there and to notice it and invited us to visit them. The conductor gave us a car and the chauffeur took us down to that wonderful estate of thirty acres on the banks of the Seine.

And the next day as we started towards the Louvre, the Art Gallery, the conductor said, "Mr. Titus, the driver says you called at quite a swell

place." "Yes," I said, "it is. That is owned by a friend of ours from Muscatine. It cost over a million dollars."

And as we approached the Art Gallery he says, "We are now approaching the statue of Lafayette given by the school children of the United States and designed by the celebrated sculptor George Gray Barnard." I said, "Is Mr. Barnard in the city?" He said, "I don't know. Do you know him?" "Oh, yes, he used to live in Muscatine. His father was pastor of the church to which I belonged."

The Barry Manufacturing Company gave a banquet in Muscatine. I was asked to tell this story. And Pat Barry, a witty Irishman, made this reply after the story was told. He said, "We all hope that Senator Titus will live to be very old. But if he should contract the flu and pass away, I venture that when he appears at the pearly gates and the alarm is given, Saint Peter would say, "Who it is?" and the response would come, "Ex-Senator Titus from Muscatine," and he would say, "Let him right in. I used to live in Muscatine myself." Well, that was my embarrassment at least about my own town.

Now I give you as my parting message this incident. After a man reaches the age that I have, he doesn't care. I had occasion to write President Roosevelt a couple of years ago, and I wrote to him like I was addressing my own son. And I said, "You probably marvel at my presumption and my ability to give you advice. But I will remind you that I am old enough to be your father, and I hold to the theory that the human mind does not mature until one is seventy years of age, so there is hope for you yet, (laughter) but nobody will see this letter except my stenographer and myself, unless you show it. But this is an important matter." He did show it, and he did what I asked him to.

I think it might be wise for this General Assembly to keep some of these older members of the Pioneer Lawmakers around here from whom you might ask advice. I thank you.

Following the singing of "God Bless America," led by the Quartette and joined in by the convention and their guests, former Senator H. S. Van Alstine, retiring president of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association expressed the appreciation and thanks of the association for the reception tendered them by the 49th General Assembly. The Joint Convention was then adjourned.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Secretary received a number of interesting letters from members of the Association which are reproduced below, some in whole others in part. Many of the writers are men still

active in the harness of business affairs or in public life which has prevented their attendance at the session this year.

Frank Merriam, Senator in the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies, later Auditor of State, and subsequently after his removal to California, governor of that state, wrote asking to be remembered to members of the association, as he was doubtful of being able to attend "unless some unexpected matter" should bring him east from his Long Beach, California, home. Fred C. Gilchrist of Laurens, who served in the house in the Twenty-ninth, and in the state senate from the Fortieth to the Forty-third, wrote from Washington, D. C. where he now serves the Eighth Congressional District, though congressional business would keep him in Washington, adding however, that "it is a good thing that the Pioneer Lawmakers have an association of this character and it ought to be perpetuated." Karl M. LeCompte, now serving in Washington for the Fifth Congressional District sent greetings too, though remaining in the national capital for similar reasons.

Among those well known to the older members of the association the letter from George E. Roberts, formerly state printer, later Director of the Mint at the turn of the Century, and who later held important positions with the Chase National Bank of New York, will be interesting:

25 Oak Bluff Ave.,
Larchmont, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Williams:

I have the notice of the meeting of Pioneer Lawmakers. I am chiefly interested in the favor that is shown your name. I had not heard of you in recent years and am glad to know you are still on this side and evidently still in the harness. Am glad to send greetings and best wishes.

I do not expect to attend the meeting. I would be glad to attend, and interested to know many of the old guard of the legislature will be there. I fear not many. I hope to see Iowa and Des Moines again, but I will turn another half year this month, 83½ on February 19. When I go I shall choose Spring or Fall. My general health is good, although my eye-sight and hearing gives signs of age.

Very truly yours
Geo. E. Roberts

L. W. Boe, member of the Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth General Assemblies, now president of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, writes that

Most of the fellows who were in the Legislature when I was there must have passed on into the Great Beyond, because I was in my early thirties when I was there. But it would be fun to turn up sometime in Des Moines, just to look at the old place.

David C. Mott, long secretary to the Association, and who to the regret of all has passed on since writing the following letter, sent his wishes and greetings from Helena, Oklahoma :

I regret that I cannot be with you on the next biennial meeting of the Pioneer Lawmakers.

During the seven biennial sessions that I was secretary and helped make the programs and the arrangements, I made a great many friendships. Many of those friends have passed over from this life, but many of you remain, and to you I extend greetings.

L. L. Bingham, of the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth, wrote from Los Angeles, California, explaining why he might not be able to share in the delights of the session that though

there are airplanes to greatly shorten the time required for travel but there are also mounting taxes, and war relief call to which we are glad to contribute—putting personal pleasure second? *No*, finding the greater satisfaction in investing that way.

Thomas A. Way, of Glendale, California, appended a modest boast to his regretful announcement of inability to attend the session in the statement "I'll bet I am the only member of the Association who never introduced a bill."

Byron W. Newberry, state senator in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second and the Extra, the Thirty-seventh, through the Fortieth Extra, wrote from his home in Strawberry Point, Iowa, which is given below :

Strawberry Point, Iowa,
February 21, 1941

Ora Williams, Curator
State Department of History
Des Moines, Iowa.

My dear friend Ora Williams:

Your favor of the 13th inst. calling my attention to the biennial session of the Pioneer Lawmakers association, which is likely to be held in the forepart of March, was deeply appreciated.

I became a member of the state Senate in January, 1904, which was my first experience in legislation. During 1904 to 1907, I served three sessions in the senate in the 30th, 31st, 32nd, and 32nd special session. I then served in the 37th, 38th, 39th and 40th General Assemblies, four regular sessions and a special Code session in 1924. When I entered the senate there were quite a number of my old-time friends who entered the senate for the first time, among whom Shirley Gilliland, then residing at Glenwood, Mills County, was one, and I recollect you were his committee clerk at the time, and you were also correspondent for a number of newspapers, and you have kept active touch in the state Public Welfare and legislative work ever since. I know of none living who has as accurate knowledge of state affairs and public welfare work than yourself. Yours has surely been a useful life.

I recollect that just before the opening of the 30th General Assembly, the House chamber was badly damaged by fire, and on account of which the chamber was inaccessible for use for two or three weeks or more. As you will recall the House convened in the Senate chamber, and the Senate temporarily occupied what was known as the Judiciary Committee room in the southwest corner, adjacent to the Senate chamber. I knew Shirley when we were students in the state university. I was in the Law Department and he was in the College of Liberal Arts. Two or three days after the Senate convened, he showed me a telegram that he had just received stating that he had a son born to him at his home in Glenwood, and over which he was quite elated. If I mistake not, this same son is now District Judge in the Council Bluffs District. Shirley was active and impulsive, but made a right good senator and rendered very good services in legislative work. He was a very companionable fellow. Should you have a little time, I wish you would write me the names and address of the present living members of the 30th General Assembly, together with the living employees, as far as you recall of them. A great many of them are now deceased or have moved from the state.

I would like very much to attend the ensuing session of the Pioneer Lawmakers association. Nothing would give me more pleasure, but I fear that I will be unable to attend.

I hung out my shingle as an attorney-at-law, here in Strawberry Point, February 7, 1877. I have been a resident and engaged in the law business here ever since. I graduated in the law class of '76 of the S. U. I., and I am the only living member of 55 graduates of this class residing in Iowa. There are a few others residing outside of the state. It has been a great satisfaction and pleasure to have known you and I appreciate the kindness and assistance that you have rendered me many times.

I trust you are enjoying fairly good health and I hope if I am able when the warm weather comes to visit Des Moines, and I will surely call on you.

Please remember me to any of the Pioneer Lawmakers in attendance at the biennial session, who may know me.

Very sincerely yours,

Byron W. Newberry,

BWN:MJH

J. A. Kasa, of Wallingford, wrote to say among other things that it is

Now 49 years ago since I sat at the *then* No. 20 desk to the right from the Speaker's stand, with a "handfull" of Democrats at the left of the speaker's stand, as I presume, you have it now.

No disgrace to the "handfull" of those solons, because the bible says, that only few will enter heaven.

I would like to have faced the present solons, representatives and senators with their beautiful lady clerks at their side. I would have pronounced it a "Garden of Eden" in its flowered glory and at once made the comparison with the looks of our chamber 49 years ago when there scarcely was a female of any breed of the human race with us, only one here and there stuck away in a committee room as clerk for one-half doz. committees.

Our House and Senate chambers 49 years ago can justly be named "*Lockers*" now used to freeze meat, pork, fish, etc. Our desks could be called drawers where we sat frozen stiff, physically speaking, with our legs stretched over the top of the desk, to prolong the blood circulation in the lower portions of our makeup.

These abbreviated quotations from members closes with Ex-governor Dan Turner's telegram of March 3, 1941, to Ora Williams as Secretary:

Ora: Sincere congratulations to the Pioneers who made laws in an early period. May they carry to the members of the General Assembly the message of faith in representative government which cannot fail as long as elected representatives of the people in state and nation remain true to the concepts of our fathers: equal opportunity to all special privilege to none.

DECEASED MEMBERS

NOTICES RECEIVED SINCE SESSION OF 1939

(Date Given is Year of First Service)

A. B. Funk.....	S	22-27 inc.	1888
F. M. Kyte.....	R	23	1890
John P. Hornish.....	R	23-24	1890
Cassius C. Dowell	R	25-26; S 29-33 inc.	1894
		Congressman,	
J. D. Morrison.....	R	25-26	1894
Beryl F. Carroll	S	26-27; Auditor of	1896
		State; Governor	
M. K. Whelan.....	R	26-27	1896
E. P. Barringer.....	R	28	1898
Marlin J. Sweeley.....	R	29	1902
J. C. Flenniken.....	R	29-30-31	1902
D. Davenport	R	29	1902
R. J. Bixby	R	31-32	1906
Benjamin F. Felt.....	R	32-34 inc.	1908
Frank W. Russell.....	R	34	1911
Herbert A. Huff.....	R	34-35	1911
Walter P. Jensen.....	R	35	1913
John F. Herman	R	36	1915
C. Orville Lee.....	R	36-37	1915
Presley L. Kepple.....	R	36-37-38	1915
J. H. Lewis	R	37	1917
H. W. Flenniken	R	37-38	1917
Perry C. Holdoegel.....	S	37-40 inc.	1917
James B. Weaver.....	R	37-38-39	1917
James E. Larsen.....	R	38	1919
Wm. P. Sutherland.....	R	38	1919
Wm. C. Windett.....	R	38	1919
J. C. Sterling.....	R	38-39	1919
Frank C. Young.....	R	38-39	1919
L. V. Carter.....	R	39-40	1921
W. C. Scott.....	R	39-40	1921
Cyrenus Cole		Congressman	1921-31

BASEBALL!

THE STORY OF IOWA'S EARLY INNINGS

BY THE WRITERS PROGRAM
OF THE IOWA W. P. A.

Baseball in Iowa was in the beginning, and for many years thereafter continued to be, pre-eminently an amateur's game. In this respect it followed the national trend. North, east, south, and west, day by day the new pastime was developed both by the experiments of players and by the suggestions of spectators. Moreover, the spectators of one day became the players of the next, for everyone—lawyers, merchants, doctors, policemen, fat men and thin men, East Side and West Side—all these citizens of young America were playing ball. In the United States that new race composed of former Europeans was spreading out, to build stage roads and canals and railroads; to send timber rafts booming down frontier rivers; to tear iron and lead and gold from the earth. These selected Americans were developed, trained, specialized, by a new environment. They became men of iron, and they played iron games. On vacant lots in growing cross-roads towns or gathered around country grist mills, waiting for water to accumulate behind the brush and mud dam, they wrestled and ran foot races, they told tales—and they played ball.

As they played they tried innovations. There were no books of rules. An idea proposed was put to the test and, if it worked, became part of the future game. Otherwise it was dropped and forgotten.

It was this spirit of bold experiment that brought about the changes that turned "town ball" into "baseball." Under the commonly accepted rules governing the former, practically any number of participants could play. The batter stood at the home plate, with a "tosser" beside him. The duty of the latter was to toss the ball straight up in such a way that the batter could easily hit it as it fell earthward. Driven by the four-inch bat, the big yarn and leather ball zoomed into the field. If it was caught, the catcher became the next batsman. If the batter struck and missed and if the tosser caught the ball before it struck the ground, the tosser took his turn

at bat. If the batter hit the ball and it was not caught, he ran for a base fifty feet distant. He was now fair game for anyone who could retrieve the ball and "plunk" him with it as he ran. If he got back safely, without being so struck, he had another turn at bat.

An inevitable monotony in this over-simplified game irked a group of boys connected with Greene's Select School for boys, in Cooperstown, New York. On the occasion of a game played with a rival school one of the Greene School players suggested several changes.¹ This youngster, Abner Doubleday, showed even in these early years the spirit of initiative that in later life made him a business leader. He was typical of that adventurous American spirit that was taming the mountains and the prairies—and developing baseball.

Young Doubleday thought that four bases would be better than two. On three of these the runner could rest as long as he had one foot on the "cushion." If he reached home, he tallied. There were to be eleven players on each side: four outfielders, three basemen, two infielders, a pitcher, and a catcher. The runner could be put out by being hit with the ball of those days—a rubber core, wound with yarn, the whole covered with buckskin.² The pitcher's box was to be 6 x 8 feet, the baselines 90 feet. An iron disk over which the batter took his stand and to which he returned if he scored was the "home plate." The game, played as suggested, was highly successful. Abner Doubleday, because of his part in having the changes adopted, has often been called the founder of the modern sport.³

The success of these changes encouraged further experiment. Soon an "out" could be made either by catching a fly ball or a ball on the first bounce. The end of the game was fixed as that point at which one side or the other had made twenty-one runs, although the full inning had in all cases to be completed.⁴ And still later a line was drawn forty-five feet from the batter's box. Anywhere behind this line the

¹This is the commonly accepted version of what happened in that year, 1839. Other stories state that Doubleday was grown up and in Business when he suggested the changes in the game that was becoming baseball.

²*Dubuque Herald*, April 26, 1905.

³*Annals of American Sport*, p. 117; *Encyclopedia Britannica* (14th edition) III:160.

⁴*New International Encyclopedia* (second edition) II:732.

pitcher could take his stand, but he must toss the ball and he must get it across the plate to the satisfaction of the batter. Sometimes this latter requirement greatly lengthened the game, as the batter could stand placidly, bat over shoulder, and watch fifty balls go by, if so minded, before he picked out one to hit at.⁵ This lengthening of the game by the "strike when you choose" rule was somewhat offset by that other rule that prescribed twenty-one runs to win. An illustration of how this requirement could bring a ball game to an end almost before it began is one played between the "Knickerbockers," and the "New Yorks," in which twenty-one runs was made by one of the contenders by the end of the fourth inning of play.⁶

All of these changes show that baseball had not yet begun to "jell." The players, drawn from every rank of life and constantly in contact with the spectators who passed upon the merits of the game, were arriving by a process of trial and error at a standardized contest, stepped up, dramatized, guaranteed to give the gallery every possible thrill. The almost universal prevalence of amateurism helped greatly, because it avoided that great gulf between spectators and players that is inevitable when ball players take on cast and begin to live in a world set apart from that of the "public." The professional talks with other professionals. But in those formative days amateur players talked baseball with their families and with their neighbors. The amateur player and the highly vocal spectator-critic worked together for the good of all.

Comparative fixation was bound to come, but it was not till 1844 that the Knickerbocker Club, in New York, adopted a printed code of rules.⁷ Another ten years passed before the first national convention,⁸ at which, among other changes, the twenty-one runs-to-win rule gave place to the present game of nine innings.⁹

The stage was now set for the rapid expansion of baseball to every part of the country. The game was integrated and

⁵Most of these changes were made in 1845, according to the *Dubuque Herald* of August 6, 1911.

⁶This game was played at Hoboken, New Jersey, June 19, 1846. *Commy, The Life Story of Charles H. Comiskey* (Reilly & Lee, Chicago, 1919), p. 13; *Annals of American Sport*, p. 117.

⁷*Dubuque Herald*, August 10, 1884.

⁸In 1857—*Americana* (1937) III:302.

⁹*Brittanica*, III:165.

was receiving increasing publicity. In Iowa, country editors were beginning to ask curious or facetious questions.

FIRST DAYS IN IOWA

In various parts of the state ball games of the prebaseball period were being played. In Des Moines, in 1857, a cricket club was organized. The *Iowa State Journal* for June 27, 1857, states that an early meeting was held at the Demoiné House, and that upwards of forty members were in attendance. But cricket was an imported game, and formal too. No wonder in Davenport cricket was loosing out to townball, possibly because, as one sage observer remarked, townball was an institution "western young men understand a great deal better than cricket."¹⁰

In 1858 came baseball. That year two local baseball teams played before a large crowd in Davenport. This is apparently the first time the game under that name was played west of the Mississippi River. Later the same year the Pastime Baseball Club No. 2 was organized in Davenport, with George L. Davenport, president; Add Sanders and A. C. Billon, vice-presidents; M. M. Price, corresponding secretary; J. A. LeClaire, treasurer; H. Tilden, secretary; A. Castell and A. D. Jewell, ground committee.¹¹

America, however, was entering a critical period, and during the next five years the new game had an uphill fight to hold a doubtful place in popular interest. Tension over the issue of slavery mounted and the depression of 1857 was still felt. Once the great conflict was on, however, a new factor, favorable to the dissemination of baseball, entered. Those husky young fellows who donned their uniforms to be whisked away over the prairies in the cars of the recently completed Midwestern railroads, found it difficult to amuse themselves during the interludes of marching and fighting.¹² They began to play ball, probably running the gamut from the simple to the complex till they were playing the latest version. Returning on furlough from the front, they brought this advanced game to all parts of Iowa. To these army boys goes

¹⁰*Davenport Gazette*, May 28, 1858.

¹¹*Ibid.*, June 2, 1858.

¹²*Annals of American Sport*, p. 119.

a large part of the credit for accelerating baseball awareness throughout the entire country.

Items like the following, from Dubuque, a northern Iowa mobilization point appeared in the Dubuque *Daily Times*, August 15, 1863:

All members of the Dubuque City Base Ball Club are requested to be on the grounds back of Judge Wilson's residence, promptly at half past three, this afternoon.

And this, from the Dubuque *Times* of August 19:

A match game between the nines selected from the Hawkeye Base Ball Club will take place in the club grounds, at the old race track, this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Promptness on the part of players is requested.

Earlier in the year, Dubuque's Fourth Ward played the Third Ward team. After two hours of strenuous effort—(they played with an oversized ball¹³ very different from the "rabbit" type of today) the third warders gave up in disgust.¹⁴

The game the men in blue brought back to their home state on furlough visits retained its amateur character. Those lusty pioneers—those clerks and printers and druggists, those lawyers and physicians and merchants—still held to the idea that it is better to be a participant than a spectator. There were favorable circumstances, making for the retention of amateurism. One was the fact that the hardest of the pioneering was done, and there was a little leisure for play. Another was that Iowa towns and cities were being built up rather loosely, with plenty of vacant lots scattered about for the after-work-hours baseball contest. The noon hush, characteristic of many country towns today—broken only by the whine of tires and the hum of racing engines on the highway—was in those early decades broken up by the excited yells of boys and men. Everyone was at it, sweating, swatting, debating the fine points of the new pastime.

Although the new game was evidently taking root and establishing itself in popular favor, it didn't have the field of amusement entirely to itself. Horse racing was an old favorite, and many an Iowa hamlet had a favorite trotter or running horse that it was willing to back against outside

¹³*Americana*, III:302.

¹⁴Dubuque *Democratic Herald*, June 9, 1863.

talent. Dubuquers in the late 50's patronized the track at Peru. A few years later they were holding race meets during the open season of the year in a Dubuque driving park. During the winter, races were frequently held down Locust street, with accommodating spectators acting as guards at the crossings. And there was hunting. Quail, woodcock, wild turkeys, geese, ducks, squirrels, and raccoons still abounded in the Iowa countryside, and the idea that it is not highly creditable to sally forth to slaughter wholesale as much game as you can haul home had not yet been heard of. Men were still living lustily and whatever they did, they did with vigor and enthusiasm.

This love of doing things, of being a participant rather than a spectator, made it possible for baseball to thrive alongside the older and better established sports. Clubs sprang up in Dubuque, in Davenport, in Keokuk, and in other towns and cities. Often in the smaller places where the limited number of players justified the formation of only one club, it consisted of two nines that played against each other.¹⁵

The playing technique of those old-time games seems amusing now. The pitcher still tossed the ball with an underhand motion¹⁶ and the batter could call for a high ball or a low one. The idea was to get him out on the field, and to deal with him there before he could score. Gloves and masks were unknown, as was team work.¹⁷ In the sixties broken fingers were an inevitable consequence of ball playing. An old time catcher was rather proud of his hands, which usually were thickened and crippled in every joint.

But despite these features which make the game of those days seem rough and unformed to us now, a ball club was in every formal sense a club. Perhaps the boys had learned order and management in the war. Perhaps the dignity of formal presentation as a club helped to offset the absence of formality in play. Even small-town organizations showed themselves to their rivals with a complete array of officials; president, vice-president, secretary, and a board of directors.

¹⁵F. Oldt, *History of Dubuque County, Iowa*, (Goodspeed Historical Association, Chicago) p. 157.

¹⁶*Annals of American Sport*, p. 137.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, p. 120.

Step by step, little by little, in these various ways baseball was making a place for itself in the national consciousness.

Thus, with the close of the Civil War, when the husky young Iowa veterans, steadier and older now than when they had headed away for camp and battlefield, returned to their homes west of the Mississippi, they found that the game they had helped introduce was playing a larger and larger part, each year, in the recreational life of their home communities. And it may be that certain arguments they had indulged in while they were away from home as to the relative up-and-comingness of the towns they hailed from, could now be put to a practical test. Which was the better baseball town—Dubuque or Davenport? With the verve and enthusiasm of exuberant health, these broad-shouldered young men got back of the game. That could prove the answer! Davenport formed a club which they called the “Scotts” and later another called the “Pasture Club.” Dubuque came in with the “Juliens.” Rock Island, not to be outdone, brought forward the “Jacksons.”

Both enterprise and rivalry were in the air. Not only the influx of soldier blood but the very nature of the work these early comers to Iowa were doing in building up towns, in creating industries and businesses, made it inevitable that they should compete: they competed in laying out new town-sites, and they competed on the diamond. Soon there were enough town and city clubs that regional tournaments could be held. Not surprising in view of the early prominence of Dubuque was the tournament held in that city in 1865. The “Empires” of St. Louis defeated the Freeport and Dubuque nines, for the championship and for a cash prize of \$100.¹⁸

From press notices of the time we learn that in December 1865, a gathering of baseball devotees from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Iowa, was held in Chicago. A name was adopted—the “North-Western Base Ball Convention”—and apparently an effort was made to secure for mid-western clubs some kind of representation in the national movement that was controlled in and by the East. J. D. Langworthy,

¹⁸ Held September 29-30, 1865, see *Dubuque Democratic Herald*, September 30, October 1, 1865.

a member of one of the Dubuque nines, was elected assistant vice-president but whether the convention took any practical steps and what, if anything, came of them, it is impossible to determine.¹⁹

AN ALL IOWA SPORT

During the following two years there was a rapid spread of baseball fever to all parts of the state. Baseball news traveled its devious course from town to town by personal contacts. Visiting players carried the fever to new communities. In 1866, undoubtedly due to some such direct conveyance of the rules and methods of the new game, Mount Pleasant appeared with its "Hawkeye Club" while the "Capital City Club" represented Des Moines.²⁰ Dubuque, which early succumbed to the infection, passed it on to Galena on the east and to Manchester on the west.²¹ Keokuk, on the other hand, seems to have possessed remarkable resistance to the fever. As late as September 30, 1866, the *Daily Gate City* announced foot races with prizes as high as \$500²²—but no ball games.

The sport reached Council Bluffs, clear across the state, this same year, 1866. The editor of the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*, for June 9, remarked of the new game that

When we stated the other day that we were unacquainted with that kind of game which the boys call Base Ball, we erred grievously. Little did we know when we wrote, that Base Ball is but another name for "Two-cornered" or "Three-cornered" or "Four-cornered Cat!" Guess we know that game! Guess we followed it as a professional for ten years of our juvenile existence! Guess we know how to knock a common yarn ball with a round bat, clear over the top of a very small tree! . . . Call things by their right names! Say "Cat" to us, and ten thousand glorious reminiscences will leap from the home of remembrance, and dance gloriously in the twilight of our age!

P.S. We are sadly mistaken. We confess after having examined the play at the depot grounds yesterday afternoon that Base Ball is not Old Cat by a jug full! It is simply Town Ball with variations.

In 1867 there were nine clubs in Des Moines, the "Capital City" and "Rough and Ready" clubs, the "Mechanics," the

¹⁹*Burlington Hawk-Eye*, Dec. 13, 1865.

²⁰*Ibid.*, Aug. 20, 1866.

²¹*Dubuque Herald*, April 25, 1926.

²²*Keokuk Daily Gate City*, Sept. 30, 1866.

"Pioneers," the "Star City," the "Tough and Gritty," the "Young America," the "Young Eagles," and the "Shirttail Rangers." The Des Moines *Iowa State Register* describes the last-named group as "composed of jolly little urchins who have 'just left their mamas'."²³ Winterset, Knoxville, and Oskaloosa had teams. August 10, 1867, the "Mechanics" of Des Moines went to Winterset for the first away-from-home game of a Des Moines Club, and beat the Winterset team 82-47.²⁴ It is noteworthy that a clergyman, the Reverend W. E. Smith of the First Methodist Church of Winterset, was conspicuous for his fine playing in that game.²⁵

Perhaps as a result of these inter-city competitions, uniforms for players began to take the place of the miscellaneous garb of work-a-day life. Usually purchased in the East, these uniforms included cravats, flannel suits, and brightly colored stockings. Later came caps and canvas-topped shoes with hobnailed soles.²⁶

Then, late in the season of 1867, three ball clubs were organized at Keokuk; the "Pioneers," the "Gate Citys," and the "Athletics."²⁷ On August 14 the "Gate Citys" beat the Warsaw, Illinois, Mutuals 49 to 46, only to have the Illionis team come back a week later and defeat them, 60 to 55.²⁸ After the game Charles Carver, catcher for the Gate Citys, was presented with a solid mahogany silver mounted bat which bore the inscription:

Presented to Charles H. Carver for the handsome manner in which he caught a ball, August 22, 1867.

Not only individual ability, but an individual act of play, was recognized with a trophy! Carver's prize-winning catch had ended an especially fruitful inning for the Mutuals.

August 10, just before these two games with Warsaw, the *Daily Gate City* announced "a Great Base Ball Convention to be holden at Belle Plaine, Iowa, on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and

²³*Iowa State Register*, (d.) Des Moines, July 13, 1867.

²⁴*Ibid.*, July 27, 1867.

²⁵*Ibid.*, Aug. 13, 1867.

²⁶That these new dress-up uniforms made an impression on the observer of those days is indicated by a report of a game played in 1866, between the Ft. Dodge "Wahkonsas" and the Marshalltown "Marshalls." The reporter for the Ft. Dodge paper wrote with obvious admiration of the players, "looking swell in their bright dazzling underclothes, of red zouave pants, long white stockings, blue shirts with white ruffled bosoms, looking 'huger' . . ."—*Iowa Northwest*, Sept. 26, 1866.

²⁷*Keokuk Daily Gate City*, August 15, 1867.

²⁸*Ibid.*, August 29, 1867.

13th of September," and stated that tents were to be furnished the different clubs so that those who preferred to camp could do so. All games were to be governed by the Rules and Regulations of the National Association of Base Ball players, adopted December 12, 1866. The tournament rules following included a ban on intoxicating liquors, none of which were to be allowed sold on the grounds. The captains of the different nines were to be held responsible for the behavior of their teams and for property in their charge. A prize of a silver ball and mounted bat was announced for the best club organized previous to January 1; a silver service urn and nine goblets for the second best club, and six other prizes for the best pitcher, catcher, batter, fielder, baseman, and the swiftest runner of bases. Prizes for younger clubs, organized since January 1, were the same. All together, the trophies announced for this tourney amounted to a thousand dollars.²⁹ The Marshalltown "Marshalls" outplayed all competitors at the Belle Plaine Tournament.³⁰ On this team was one destined to contribute much to baseball, Adrian Constantine Anson, the first white child born in Marshalltown.³¹ "Pop," as he was later called, was only fifteen at the time of the tournament, but he and his brother Fred were the outstanding players of the meet.

There can be no doubt that such events as the Belle Plaine tourney were gala days with the home town band playing and a grand parade down Main Street and the stands at the ball park doing a thriving business in popcorn, taffy, and in red lemonade. The visitors in their uniforms and the home town boys in theirs vied for attention, particularly that of the pretty girls of the village.³² It is sad to have to point out that this spirit of exhilaration and of excitement didn't always last much past the ninth inning. Then the mood of the players cooled and the crowd went home, and soon there were apt to be recriminations. Frequently two small Iowa towns spent weeks of the baseball season abusing each other, usually in the columns of the local papers, as the result of one game. But

²⁹*Ibid.*, August 10, 1867; *Iowa State Register*, August 7, 9, 1867.

³⁰*Iowa State Register*, Nov. 7, 1867.

³¹*Palimpsest*, III:374.

³²For a detailed description of the enthusiasm engendered in a local inter-city rivalry, between Fort Dodge and Marshalltown, see *Iowa Northwest*, Fort Dodge, September 26, 1866.

it is safe to guess that even this vociferous abuse had in it an element of fun, that it was "part of the game." Consider, for instance, this excerpt from the *Belle Plaine Transcript* of September 24, 1866. Quoting the *DeWitt Observer*, the editor says:

We learn that Marshalltown was at Belle Plaine that day for the purpose of playing a match game against herself on the "grab" principle and taking all the prizes and Belle Plaine too—for *they owned it*. At least that was the way it looked to a man without spectacles.

Baseball tourneys were in the air. At almost the same time the Belle Plaine tournament was announced, Dubuque, proud of its famed "Excelsiors," was laying plans for a second baseball convention to be held in that river city in mid September, when further plans were to be laid for a subsequent tournament. The club members went so far as to arrange for half fare transportation by one of the Mississippi River packet lines for teams coming by the river. But this was an unfortunate time for the Dubuque convention, for the Belle Plaine games, proceeding at once without preliminary convening, drew the attention of fans and players by middle September, thus killing the Dubuque Excelsiors' plans.³³

A third effort towards a state meet in 1867 had a longer and more satisfactory history. It too had its inception in the first week of August, the same time as the Belle Plaine and Dubuque plans were originally offered. Started by a circular signed by officers of the Des Moines, Ottumwa, Mount Pleasant, and Burlington baseball clubs, and widely distributed among the southern, eastern, and central Iowa teams, the suggested plan called for a Base Ball Convention to be held at Ottumwa, August 21, for the purpose of setting a date for a state tourney.³⁴ Attending this convention in addition to "Prof." C. B. Worthington of the "Capital City Club" were delegates from two other Des Moines clubs. Burlington's three clubs had delegates, and Fairfield sent two, one her editor, W. W. Jenkins, and the other state representative John T. McCullough. H. C. Leighton, editor of the Oskaloosa *Herald* represented a club from that town. Marshalltown,

³³*Dubuque Times*, (d), August 7, 13, 1867.

³⁴*Iowa State Register*, (d), August 11, 1867.

Mount Pleasant, and Nevada appeared, and delegates were there from Ottumwa, of course.⁸⁵

The outcome of the convention was the formation of the Iowa State Base Ball Association, with a membership fee of \$2. Arrangements were also made for a state baseball tournament to be held October 15, 16, 17, at Burlington, which easily won the bid for the games by offering to raise an additional \$600 in special prize money for awards. But perhaps because of the entrance fees required for teams in the three classes of competition set up—\$20, \$15, and \$10—entrance applications came in slowly.⁸⁶

The deadline for applications was postponed until October 14 in order to have as large a list as possible to compete for the attractive awards. In the first class the first prize was \$200 (in greenbacks) and a gold-mounted rosewood bat worth \$75. Second and third prizes were in proportion. Second class teams competed for combination prizes for first, second, and third places worth respectively \$150, \$100, and \$50. Clubs in the third flight, presumably the junior clubs, were offered \$50 and a \$50 gold-mounted bat as first prize, and second place winners received \$25 and a set of blue silk flags valued at \$25. Third prize winners were awarded a \$25 rosewood bat. In addition to this there were special prizes for outstanding individual skills, among which was the usual prize for the best batsman, and one for the best catcher of fly balls. Plans were suggested for an exhibition game between the Chicago Excelsiors and the Rockford Forest City team, with a liberal prize in greenbacks to the winner.⁸⁷

In addition to the Burlington teams, the Davenport "Scotts," the Mount Pleasant "Hawkeyes," and one or more Ottumwa clubs were entered. Although on October 12 the *Keokuk Daily Gate City* glibly announced that "The Keokuk boys haven't entered the lists, and of course the championship cannot be settled without them," apparently, the other teams that were entered did not share that conviction. Des Moines teams, notably the Capital City Club, and probably others,

⁸⁵*Ottumwa Daily Courier*, August 21, 22, 1867; *Iowa State Register*, August 21, 1867.

⁸⁶*Ibid.*, August 22, 1867; *Iowa State Register*, October 2, 1867.

⁸⁷*Iowa State Register*, *ibid.*

did not enter because many of their members could not be away from the city for so long a time. The Marshalltown Marshalls remained out, apparently satisfied with the Belle Plaine championship.³⁸

The Mount Pleasant Hawkeyes won the first class award by defeating the Burlington Westerns in the final decisive game by the conclusive score of 115-42. The Ottumwa "Actives" won first prize in the third class—\$50 and a gold-mounted bat—from the Orchard City club of Burlington,³⁹ quite a feather in the cap of Ottumwa's junior ball club.

The absence of track from Keokuk to Burlington may account for the failure of the "Westerns" to enter the Burlington tournament. Fort Madison and Keokuk were connected by the Keokuk, Mount Pleasant and Muscatine Railroad in 1857, but the line was not completed to Burlington until 1870, a year after it was purchased by the C. B. & Q.⁴⁰

Dubuque, in this year 1867, although not entered in either tournament, had its "Excelsiors" of which the inhabitants of the Key City were very proud. From time to time lesser local teams were absorbed by this organization. The *Dubuque Herald* of July 23, 1867, mentions one such merger:

Base Ball Consolidation: The 'Eureka' and the 'Clipper' clubs had both addressed communications to the 'Excelsiors,' asking for consolidation. The 'Excelsiors' decided to take in the 'Eurekas,' which hereafter will be open to challenge, etc. The 'Clippers' will maintain their separate organization and will fight it out on that line all summer.

According to the same newspaper, of July 27, enthusiasm in the central parts of the state was every bit as keen:

The *Courier* says that Waterloo has no less than six base ball clubs. Broken fingers, disjointed thumbs, noses askew, and variegated eyes . . . ought to prevail.

On July 31 a game was held at Manchester between the "Excelsior" club of Manchester and the "Cedar" club of Waterloo. The game was called at "2½ p. m.," and the play-

³⁸The Des Moines Capital City Club as well as the Tipton Resolutes were first reported as attending the tournament, *Keokuk Gate City*, October 12, 1867, but the Des Moines team had definitely decided to remain at home by that date, see *Iowa State Register*, October 12. For a jibe at the Marshalltown Marshalls, see the *Register*, October 9. *Keokuk Gate City*, October 18, 1867.

³⁹*Keokuk Gate City*, *ibid.*; *Ottumwa Daily Courier*, October 18, 1867.

⁴⁰*History of Lee County*, (Western Historical Co., 1879), p. 511.

ing time for the nine innings was about three hours. Manchester won by a score of 44 to 20.⁴¹

During this year, 1867, Decorah had no organized ball club, although a match game with Freeport was arranged, to be played at Freeport.⁴² Knoxville had a club of 34 members called the "Nonpareil," and ordered caps and belts for these local heroes, from New York. The "Surprise" club was organized at Knoxville.⁴³ And according to the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*, school girls in Council Bluffs took up baseball in 1867. For anyone who remembers the decidedly decorous and ladylike behavior expected of girls and young women even several decades later than this date, the statement seems a little puzzling. Perhaps the air of the "great plains," blowing in over Nebraska from country which was still the wild and woolly frontier of the Indian and the buffalo, had something to do with it. Or possibly "Bloomerism" may be credited in bringing about the result. If anything of the kind took place in the eastern part of the state, history has failed to pass it on to us.

The same molding of public sentiment in favor of baseball that has been noted throughout the two or three previous years continued in 1868. Organizations sprang up in every part of the state and it is obvious that the trend had established itself as a strong and continuous current. Marshalltown's club, that had won the Belle Plaine tournament the year before, invaded Nebraska to beat Omaha by the unusually low score of 2-1.⁴⁴ Sioux City in the northwest, and West Union and Fredericksburg organized teams this year;⁴⁵ Fayette, Waukon, Pottawatomie, Marshalltown, and Lansing were also among the names now on the roster of Iowa clubs.⁴⁶

During the brief remainder of this decade the ball clubs of Iowa continued to grow in strength and in number. They were given special rates by the railroad companies, and traveled about the state, competing with other local teams.⁴⁷ Often

⁴¹*Dubuque Democratic Herald*, August 2, 1867.

⁴²*Decorah Republican*, July 26, 1867.

⁴³*Knoxville Iowa Voter*, August 15, 1867.

⁴⁴*Council Bluffs Bugle*, August 14, 1868.

⁴⁵*Sioux City Journal*, May 7, 1868; *Decorah Republican*, June 5, 1868.

⁴⁶*Decorah Republican*, April 10, June 26, July 24, 1868; *Council Bluffs Bugle*, August 27, 1868.

⁴⁷*Palimpsest*, VIII:177.

business houses closed during the hours of the game and the townfolk and occasional fans from adjoining farms made their way to the ball field and shouted themselves hoarse, as hard-batted balls released their favorite player to race around the diamond. Spectators sat on the ground or on folding canvas-covered stools, and were nearly as close to the play as though they had been on the field. They knew all the members of the home team, and perhaps would be playing themselves the next day or the next week. This was a more intimate participation than that of the modern fan, sitting tense-faced and picking his fingers before his radio, sometimes hundreds of miles from the playing field.

Perhaps this close contact with the game had something to do with the rise of gambling on the outcome of ball games at about this time. Another suggestion is that the gambling fever was just another evidence of the rivalry between towns and between sections of the state, which was still in a condition of growth, with towns expanding and new towns springing up along the lines of the railroads. Competition was in the very air that blew in from the western prairies. Audiences began to back their judgment by wagering side bets. Lafe Young and J. S. Clarkson, editors of Atlantic and of Des Moines papers, are said to have won enough plug hats by sagacious betting to stock a hat store!⁴⁸

The newspaper attitude, although casual and mildly derisive at first, as we have seen, became increasingly stimulating, until the editor's function as an actively betting sidelines promoter gave strong impetus to interest and the matching of games. On May 14, 1868, the Algona *Upper Des Moines* gives a sample of the provocative taunting that ran between editors over the teams of their towns.

. . . the Winnebago Press, makes the following "teching" appeal to the "Hickorys."

Hickorys where are ye? Come forth and show yourselves in all your might. The reputation you gained last year as ball players, though you did get "scooped" by the Pioneers, must not be infringed upon by any other club. The Algona boys say they can "lay out" the Forest Citizens without any practice. Here's a flat up and down challenge which you must prepare to answer in the

⁴⁸For discussion of national problems concerning gambling in baseball at this time, see *International Encyclopedia*, II:732.

course of another month or two. So Hickory boys you had better spread yourselves on the ground next Saturday.⁴⁹

The *Upper Des Moines* then went on to tell the "Hickorys" how they were to be "eaten and slept" over night, and the next day laid out in good style, stowed away again over the next night, then the next day sent on their way rejoicing—if they were able to rejoice. It must be remembered that the distance between Algona and Forest City is only forty-one miles. Considering that often three days were lost for a game with a nearby neighbor, the number of inter-city ball games played between clubs lying north and south of each other is not really small. Transportation facilities for east and west points, thanks to the railroads, were much better. July 5, 1870, the "Crescents," of Des Moines beat the "Clippers" at Omaha 36-13, after they had spent the Fourth beating Council Bluffs 48-13.⁵⁰

Losers did not always take their misfortunes in good spirit. Fist fights so often followed ball games that women usually departed promptly after the last inning to give the men plenty of room to swing fists or bottles. Down on Third Street in Dubuque, where the "Celtics" were playing the "Lone Stars," and on the diamond in Jackson Park where the "Live Oaks" battled the "Actives," the sand lot teams of boys took their fun so seriously that two husky and agile grown-ups were required to police each contest. Great baseball players were created by this rough and tumble competition. "Pop" Anson of Marshalltown was one of the greatest.⁵¹ Another was William Sunday, born at Ames in 1862. "Billy" Sunday made his reputation, as far as baseball is concerned, after he had turned professional; but it was on the sand lots of Iowa that he developed the abilities that made him famous.⁵²

For a time in 1875, Keokuk with its "Westerns" held membership in the National Association. That it should have done so, even for a short time, is remarkable. Very possibly that exalted civic pride which led each community to boost its own climate, its own commercial vigor, and its own prospects for becoming the metropolis of the middle-west, had something to

⁴⁹*Upper Des Moines*, Algona, May 14, 1868.

⁵⁰*Iowa State Register*, July 6, 1870.

⁵¹*Palimpsest*, III:374.

⁵²*Ibid.*, XI:345.

do with this phenomenon. Often a town would rake up enough of a purse to start some grandiose adventure of this kind, without realizing what the future cost would be. It would build the foundation, then be able to go no farther. Certain it is that in an organization made up almost entirely of teams from the big eastern cities and from Chicago, little Keokuk could hardly expect to maintain a foothold, and soon the "Western" withdrew from the league.⁵³ Most of the players went to better positions on larger teams. Joe Miller, second baseman, was signed by the Chicago White Sox; Tallehan, shortstop, and Barnie, the catcher, joined the Mutuals of New York; Simmons, first baseman, had offers from New Haven and from Washington; Jones, the left fielder, went to Louisville; and Jack Carbine, utility player, joined the Boston Red Sox.

Other parts of the state, in the same year, 1875, continued the good work of organizing ball clubs. In fact it was said that

for the year 1875 Iowa is more largely represented on the diamond field than at any previous years, it has no less than fifty legally organized clubs, Iowa City, Manchester, Davenport, and Dubuque standing at the head. Iowa City claims the championship, with the Hyde Clarks of this city a good second. The Hydes and the Old Empires have consolidated, making the strongest nine this city has ever had.⁵⁴

ORGANIZATION OF LEAGUES

The idea of organizing local teams into circuits though less ambitious than Keokuk's attempt in the National Association nevertheless led at first to many fiascos. Among these was the collapse of the Southwestern Iowa Prairie League in 1877, after its first few weeks of play. But the following year, 1878, Ted Sullivan, with the backing of such men as U. S. Senator William B. Allison and David B. Henderson, later U. S. Representative, organized the Northwestern League. Dubuque, Davenport, Rockford, and Omaha were among the member teams. In the same year Sullivan hired a young fellow named Comiskey to come to Dubuque to play baseball.

⁵³*Keokuk Daily Gate City*, Oct. 20, 1937.

⁵⁴*Dubuque Herald*, August 3, 1875.

Charles Comiskey had made his debut in baseball when as a boy of 17 he abandoned the brick wagon he was driving and went to the rescue of a Chicago ball team losing a hotly contested game. Later in the afternoon his father appeared, saw what had happened, and drove the rig to its destination. That night father and son had a heart-to-heart talk, with the result that Charles left the next day for Milwaukee, where he signed as a third baseman.⁵⁵ From Milwaukee, Comiskey went to Elgin, Illinois, and its team did not lose a single game in which he played.

In Dubuque the "greatest Roman of them all," as Comiskey later came to be known, received fifty dollars a month as a utility player during the season and worked as a "peanut butcher" on the Illinois Central for the remainder of the year.⁵⁶ Part of the time he pitched, and of Comiskey's pitching in these early days of his career there is an interesting account by Ted Sullivan:

The distance from the pitcher's mound to the batter was forty-five feet, and at that distance his (Comiskey's) long arms used to send balls across the plate that the country clubs around Dubuque were afraid to face. Many of the members of those clubs returned home with fractured ribs and blackened shins from Comiskey's rifle-shot delivery. . . .⁵⁷

The identity of the other members of the Dubuque team may be gleaned from the line-ups of the final game of the split six-game series played between Dubuque and Davenport in 1878:

DUBUQUE		DAVENPORT	
O'Rourke	First Base	Harry McCaffery	
Colford	Shortstop	Mike Moynahan	
Comiskey	Catcher	Rudy Kemmler	
Dolan	Right Field	Biddy McPhee	
Farrell	Left Field	Wagner	
Brady	Center Field	Mackrey	
Sullivan	Third Base	O'Day	
Phelan	Second Base	Levis	
Ross	Pitcher	Joe Bohn	

⁵⁵*Commy*, p. 10, *et seq.*

⁵⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 49, 50.

⁵⁷*Dubuque Herald*, April 26, 1903.

The Dubuque team in 1879 had now become the "Red Stockings." Among the players this year were Sullivan, catcher; Reis, pitcher; Lapham, first base; Radbourne, fielder and utility pitcher (a few years later to become baseball's highest salaried player);⁶⁸ Loftus, right field; J. Gleason, shortstop; W. Gleason, third base; Taylor, left field; Alveretta, center field; with Comiskey sometimes pitching and sometimes playing in the outfield. With this powerful array of players, most of whom were soon to see service on the teams of larger cities, Dubuque proved altogether too strong for other members of the league. Bad blood was created, and by July the Northwestern League was in difficulties, as reported in the Dubuque *Herald* of July 12, 1879:

The Dubuques not being able to come to an agreement with the Rockfords about an umpire, left this Thursday night for Milwaukee, where they play today.

* * * *

The Omahas following the examples of the Davenports, have disbanded, which virtually busts up the league . . . A traveling man now in the city says that he heard while in Rockford lately that the Rockford nine reported that they were pounded, insulted, and hit in the head at the 4th of July game and that the police had to be called . . .

Other league members disbanded because of financial troubles, but both Dubuque and Rockford, though continuing to scold each other, kept their clubs intact. Near the end of this hectic season Dubuque played her famous shut-out game with the Chicago White Sox, winning by a score of 1 to 0.⁶⁹ Because of the prestige of the visiting team and the excitement engendered by the quarrels in the league, this victory is probably the high spot in Dubuque baseball history. Moreover, as both the Dubuque and Rockford clubs ended the year intact, the Northwestern League was regarded as having rounded out the season, the first minor league in the country to do so.⁶⁰ From this it is apparent that the mortality among baseball organizations was high in the late seventies. In 1879, Providence, Boston, and Chicago were the only major organiz-

⁶⁸*Ibid.*, November 23, 1884.

⁶⁹*Ibid.*, August 5, 1879.

⁶⁰*Commy*, p. 50.

ations to clear expenses.⁶¹ Nines in other large cities played to crowds that averaged less than 500 spectators.

But baseball by now was unmistakably a national game, and the rules were still being changed year by year to bring it closer to what the public wanted. The "bound catch" on the third strike was abolished, the pitcher was allowed "only" eight balls before the batter could walk to first base, the dimensions of the pitcher's box were reduced, bases became a uniform fifteen inches square in size, and a batter struck by a batted ball was automatically out.

Although the Northwestern League failed to start the season of 1880, Dubuque had a ball team, and its line-up was about the same as for the previous year. The thriving little city of Dubuque—during this and the following decade it hummed with industrial prosperity most of the time—may almost be taken as the norm with which to compare other Iowa cities, in the development of the national pastime. Again and again the most rosy prospects faded to a pale gray cloud of gloom. Business men rallied behind one team after another, for civic pride was a stinging incentive to make a showing that would compare favorably with the best that other Iowa towns could do. The team would sprint to the top of whatever league or association it played in, and then very often would fall again when the support both of business men and of spectators who could and would pay cash admissions to the ball park failed.

For a brief period then, the banner of baseball would be carried forward only by amateur teams. Sporting news in the local papers would fall close to the zero mark. And then the coming of spring would renew enthusiasm and the Key City would start off wildly toward new defeats. And so it was with a hundred other Iowa towns and cities. Sometimes even the most successful teams were unable to rally financial support behind their rosters. In this season of 1880 the Dubuque team went on the road to win straight games from St. Louis, from Jefferson City, and from Ottawa. But even this fine record availed nothing for the club failed to pay expenses. It may be that public interest then, as now, was

⁶¹Dubuque Herald, March 21, 1880.

rhythmic, and that this year was one of ebbing enthusiasm among the fans; that there had come what financiers call a "technical reaction." At any rate in July the local sponsors withdrew and Captain Loftus was left with an organization on his hands, but with no financial support. A man of spirit and resourcefulness, he formed a first and second team and went on, full steam ahead, nevertheless.

Charles Comiskey was on the Loftus payroll in 1880. This is the year when he revolutionized the play at first base by coaching the pitcher to help him cover that position, while he himself ranged about the cushion. This technique, taken as a matter of course now, was revolutionary when Charlie Comiskey introduced it.⁶²

Other dynamic changes were at hand, not the least of which was the introduction of the curve ball, heralded with hoots of incredulity from the skeptics. A fan in Rochester, New York, offered to pay \$1,000 to any pitcher who could demonstrate that he could make a ball curve "in the air."

The year 1881 is important to Dubuque rather because it prepared for the departure of one of its greatest players than for anything that happened to the team otherwise.

Comiskey and Loftus were again team-mates. During July the Dubuque team—now called the "Rabbits"—played the St. Louis "Browns." Although Dubuque was beaten, Comiskey's errorless game so impressed the fans of St. Louis that they induced him to join the St. Louis team the following season.⁶³ His subsequent rise in baseball was rapid and brilliant. Like other players on the early Dubuque teams, Comiskey found in the Key City club a springboard from which to reach the peak of attainment. Ted Sullivan, the two Gleasons, Radbourne, Loftus, and many others perfected their playing in Dubuque and afterward achieved national recognition. Other Iowa clubs served in the same way as spawning ground for big league players.

Dubuque and Davenport had been the centers of baseball attention in Iowa for many years, but now interest began to shift. True, plenty of baseball was played in Dubuque in

⁶²*Commy*, p. 70; *Annals of American Sport*, p. 139.

⁶³*Commy*, pp. 53, 64.

1883, but it was strictly of an amateur character. There were a dozen amateur organizations, and such games as the "City," versus the "County Officials," "Dubuque," versus "East Dubuque," "Dubuque" versus the "picked nine," and the "Regalies" versus the "Live Oaks," were played in local parks, while the newspapers teased the teams more or less good naturedly.⁶⁴ But there was no professional team this year. Evidently, continuing the "technical reaction" already suggested, the money crowd could not be lured through the turnstiles.

But in Des Moines a professional team was organized, destined to do well at home and to fare badly on the road. Trouble developed when the umpire carried by Des Moines was ruled out in several competing cities. Local scorers in turn, accused by Des Moines of having "totaled the runs before the games was played," were substituted.

In 1885 Keokuk came into the Western League with a nine that successfully met the teams of Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Louisville. So formidable was the Keokuk nine that soon the league dwindled away, leaving only the champions from the little "Gate City."

Again in 1887 a Northwestern League was formed. This name had apparently acquired so much luster and prestige that it couldn't die. The member teams and the management varied, but as often as one circuit bearing the magical name fell apart, another sprang up. This Northwestern League of 1887 included Milwaukee, St. Paul, Oshkosh, Minneapolis, Duluth, LaCrosse, Eau Claire, and Des Moines.⁶⁵ Ted Sullivan, who had introduced Charles Comiskey to the baseball world, was president. Des Moines built a park with a seating capacity of 2,000 on South Seventh Street, near the Raccoon River. Admission was twenty-five cents with an additional charge for stabling horses during the games.

Lesser leagues were also formed. The State League included What Cheer, Oskaloosa, Newton, and Ottumwa.⁶⁶ In the Southwestern League were Creston, Atlantic, Red Oak, and Shenandoah. Dubuque again played through the season with

⁶⁴*Dubuque Herald*, July 31, 1883.

⁶⁵*Iowa State Register*, April 30, 1887.

⁶⁶*Dubuque Daily Herald*, August 28, 1887.

its amateur teams and with a semi-professional team that took on all comers, including members of the Northwestern League.

But the baseball year of 1887 ended rather gloomily for most of the larger cities. The problems of salaries and other expenses, to maintain competent professional nines, became constantly harder to solve. Professionalism, which had begun so innocently at the Capitoline Club in 1863,⁶⁷ was now beginning to show its true nature, for as the demand for superior players increased, the cost of obtaining them likewise rose. But there was sufficient momentum from the year 1887 to carry baseball in Iowa forward into the following year. In 1888 the Western Association was formed, with clubs in Des Moines, St. Louis, Omaha, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Chicago, St. Paul, and Milwaukee. The Interstate League was composed in 1888 of Davenport, Dubuque, Peoria, Crawfordsville (Indiana), Rockford, Bloomington, Danville, and Decatur. Dubuque ran into such adverse financial weather that it lost its franchise due to lack of patronage.⁶⁸ In the same league Terre Haute replaced Bloomington; other teams dropped out, and the four that remained barely managed to stagger through July. Early in August, with financial difficulties too heavy to bear, the league disbanded. Davenport bought the Minneapolis franchise in the Western Association and finished the season with that league.

It is noteworthy that Sioux City chose to stay out of what the editor of the *Sioux City Weekly Times* called "the base ball business."⁶⁹ Yet the era of inter-city leagues was well under way, and players of every caliber flocked to the city ball parks to try for positions on the teams.

GROWING PAINS OF THE GAME

The increasing complexity of organization brought disciplinary problems. In Davenport the management was forced to hire special policemen to keep ruffians in the crowd

⁶⁷In 1883, for the first time, admission money was collected from spectators. This was at the Capitoline Club, in Brooklyn, New York. Heretofore baseball had been strictly an amateur game, played by men who received no reward in the form of money. But from 1863 on, the custom of making the spectator pay for his fun, and of rewarding both the man who furnished the playing field and the players, became an established factor.

⁶⁸*Dubuque Daily Herald*, July 10, 1888.

⁶⁹*Sioux City Weekly Times*, June 7, 1868.

from throwing pop bottles at the players and from jeering too loudly.

Petty rivalries continued to divide the teams. Davenport developed a strong dislike for Umpire Hunt, whom the Davenport players accused of helping Quincy and Springfield to "squeeze" Davenport out of the league. These cities partly answered the charge by insisting that while they were playing in Davenport, the players had had to stay at Rock Island Hotels to avoid physical violence. Davenport ended the season with a grand gesture. Refusing to play out its schedule, it released its star battery of Rhines and Harrington to Cincinnati, and saw Con Strouthers sign a Brooklyn contract, while Charles Gessner went to Toledo, Jack Fanning to Omaha, and Allen to Philadelphia.

In the Western Association, Des Moines was also having trouble. On May 3, 1889, Bill Fagen, an old New York Metropolitan pitcher, was signed to bolster the faltering staff of the Des Moines Colts. Previously, Denver had advanced Fagen \$100 to enable him to report to its team. When it learned that Fagen had stopped off at Des Moines, the Denver management offered to release him to the Colts if Des Moines would reimburse them for the advance fee. This was done, and Fagen was signed with Des Moines at a salary of \$225 per month.⁷⁰

During the first month of play Fagen began to win games for the Colts. Denver then charged that he had been stolen. The dispute was carried before the league officials, who gave a decision in favor of Des Moines, but soon a strange thing happened. Fagen began to weaken; whenever he appeared on the mound, he was unmistakably drunk.⁷¹ Back in Des Moines, apparently sober, he had to be sent to the showers after pitching only one inning. Des Moines immediately released him, and before long he showed up in Denver where, during the remainder of the season, he won 17 games! Until Denver left the Western Circuit, the two cities cordially hated each other.

To make matters worse, Des Moines ended the year in last place.⁷² This and related financial troubles prevented the

⁷⁰*Iowa State Register*, May 16, 1889.

⁷¹*Ibid.*, May 29, 1889.

⁷²*Ibid.*, Oct. 1, 1889.

team from securing any star players. Not even Ladies' and Children's days could bring paying crowds through the park turnstiles. In September the Colts played out their schedule at Missouri Valley, Iowa. Omaha won the pennant, Sioux City ended in fourth place, while the Colts, in the cellar, were 41½ games behind Omaha.

During this eventful year of 1889 "Pop" Anson roused national turmoil among Chicago boosters by refusing to use Hutchinson, the former Des Moines star, in an important series of games for his Chicago team. Day after day he kept Hutchinson on the bench, even when his team was losing. Eventually he was forced by popular indignation to use the former Des Moines hurler. Hutchinson soon lifted Chicago out of the second division and into the pennant-contending class.

During the fall of 1889 a series of discussions which had a direct bearing on one of baseball's problems arose in Dubuque. This was the question of whether baseball games should be played on Sunday. The Dubuque *Herald* of October 20, 1889, observed:

While a good many would attend Sunday games who could not attend during the week, yet the business men who would put the money into the club are opposed to Sunday games, and as these men propose to put up enough money to carry the club through the season, their wishes will be respected . . . The influence of the pulpit in favor of the game will be a great advantage that would be turned against them should it be turned into a Sunday game.

Although apparently some Iowa cities passed laws against ball games played for money on Sunday, the law was evaded by allowing free admission and then "passing the hat" after the game was finished. But without doubt the opposition of conservative members of communities to Sunday games added financial to managerial troubles. Sunday, instead of being a "money day," brought little profit.

PROBLEMS OF MATURITY

In the final decade of the nineteenth century baseball found the field of popular favor crowded with other diversions. Horse racing, particularly harness racing, was fast coming into its own as a sport of the millions. Nevertheless Dubuque



FRANK M. BEYMER

PITCHER FOR THE MISSOURI VALLEY, IOWA
TEAM, 1889, 1890

rallied and in 1890 entered the Illinois-Iowa League. The players were Carrol, second base; McVicker, right field; Carlin, third base; Decker, first base; Hupp, left field; Jones, catcher; Suhr, center field; Keas, pitcher; and Richardson, shortstop. By the middle of June they were leading the league. They soon fell to fourth place, rebounded to first, then dropped to fifth. W. P. Lapham, a member of the great team of 1879, was brought back as manager. When the home town boys lost, they were all but disowned by a vitriolic local press. But when they won, the same newspapers turned on the visiting team with derisive epithets. At the end of the season the Dubuque *Herald* published the following obituary:

On this calm September morning it is with no small degree of sorrow that we say farewell to the national game. It means more than a goodbye to the cranks' delight—it means an Alpine mount of shattered hopes, a broken column of aspiration . . . Attendance dropped off, interest flagged, the stream of gold ran low, and baseball entered upon its decline . . . As a grand final on the home grounds the Dubuques played two games with Monmouth yesterday, and in order to avoid surprising anybody, both games were lost by the home team.⁷³

Des Moines' entry in the Western Association in 1890, as the "Prohibitionists," fared no better. Almost before the season was started, oxygen treatments in the form of special attractions were offered. Balloon ascensions, parachute jumps, Ladies' days, and finally a May Baseball Festival were tried. The festival continued through the month of May. Special rates were offered by the railroads, and the Des Moines management hired hacks to carry the fans from railroad station to baseball park. The ushers were specially uniformed, seats were upholstered, and stables were enlarged for the horses of visiting fans, but all these inducements failed to bring in profitable crowds—perhaps because the team was in sixth place.

At last, in July, matters reached a climax. Paton, the star lead-off man and third baseman, and Flanagan, playing at first and batting in the clean-up position, sat on the side lines, jeering at the other members of the team. Their salaries had not been paid, and this was their method of collecting. Final-

⁷³Dubuque *Daily Herald*, September 18, 1890.

ly, in a last drastic effort, Des Moines stores were persuaded to close at noon one day so that everyone might attend the ball game and contribute \$1 toward the \$6,000 required to keep the "Prohibitionists" in the league. This failed, for the Des Moines team could not rise out of sixth place. In August the franchise and the players were sold to Lincoln, Nebraska, and there the former Des Moines aggregation dropped to seventh place. Kansas City won the pennant, with only one Iowa team still represented, Sioux City, which finished in fifth place.

Des Moines and other towns in Iowa appear to have given up professional baseball during 1891.¹⁴ The financial panic had hit the Western Association and team after team dropped out. The play-off found only two teams competing, Kansas City and Sioux City; the latter won the pennant, such as it was.

About this time an episode in one of the major leagues finally wrote another paragraph in the baseball history of Iowa. "Pop" Anson, who was growing more and more querulous, apparently finished the season out in front with his Chicago Colts. Boston had five postponed games to play with the New York Giants, however, and won them all. This enabled Boston to nose out Chicago by a few percentage points. Against this "outrage," as he considered it, "Pop" immediately protested, as did the entire city of Chicago, which was demanding some kind of a post-season series. Anson satisfied the popular demand by challenging Sioux City, which had won the pennant in the Western Association.

For the series, which was played October 5-11, 1891, the team and its rooters came to Sioux City in all their big city finery and paraded up and down the main business streets. Hutchinson, the former Des Moines hurler with Pop's team, was the "Dizzy" Dean of his era and rode a mule in the procession.

On the opening day the weather was cold, and Anson installed a stove in the Chicago dugout. Hutchinson opposed Billy Hart on the mound. Hart had a good fast ball, and the team work of the Sioux City club enabled it to win an 8-1

¹⁴*Davenport Democrat*, July 29, 1891.

victory. Pop Anson was heard to remark that maybe his team wasn't good enough to play in Sioux City. In the second game, Luby pitched for Chicago, and Ehret for the Sioux City "Huskers." The latter's control was bad, and Anson's men won by a score of 7 to 4. In the third game Pitcher Maekin of the "Huskers" was nervous and badly affected by stage fright. He issued seven bases on balls, and with five errors behind his erratic pitching Chicago won by a score of 9 to 7.

A tense crowd gathered to watch the fourth game. If the "Huskers" lost this game, they were out of the series. Anson again put Hutchinson on the pitching mound, while Sioux City pitched Billy Hart, and again Hart's sizzling fast ball was too much for Anson's men. A home run by Earle in the ninth inning marked a 4-3 victory for Sioux City, which went on to take the fifth game. In the sixth and last of the series, the score was tied in the seventh inning, but eventually Sioux City won. Anson and his men went back to the Windy City having won but two of six games. Sioux City then played the St. Louis "Browns," four times pennant winners in the American Association, and beat them in four straight games.^{74a}

In 1892, Des Moines and most of the towns in eastern Iowa were out of organized baseball. Sioux City continued to dominate the Western Association until 1894. In that year, having clinched the pennant by the latter part of August, it was unceremoniously ousted from the league by the remaining teams, which then calmly continued to compete for the pennant.

In this year old "Dad" Traffley was named manager of the Des Moines Prohibitionists.⁷⁵ The Des Moines club secured a franchise in the Western Association, and in the spring of 1895 built a park on the banks of Walnut Creek near Valley Junction (now West Des Moines), because of the blue laws against Sunday games.⁷⁶ Gambling syndicates were numerous and brazen in these middle years of the Gay Nineties, and Traffley had his hands full keeping his best players sober.

Though Sioux City and Des Moines did fairly well with

^{74a}*Sioux City Journal*, Oct. 4-12, 1891.

⁷⁵*Iowa State Register*, July 19-22, 1894.

⁷⁶*Ibid.*, March 31, 1895.

their professional teams in 1894, Dubuque did not. The amateur game seems to have reached its peak in the Key City this season, during which many teams were organized, headed by the "Dubuques," a team which operated on what was called a "mutual" plan. The players shared profits or losses, and played ball chiefly for recreation. The clubs included the "Doctors," who often played the "Lawyers" or the "Druggists"; the "First Street Stars," whose hereditary enemy was the "Panhandlers"; the "Police," who played against the "Lawyers" and were, as might have been expected, defeated. The "Eagle Point Reds," the "Senators," the "Golden Eagles," the "Black Diamonds," the "Hawkeyes," and the "Milwaukeees" united to form a city league, with a playing field in Rhomberg's park. Competition reached a peak in July, and judging from local press notices, Dubuque never had a better time.

The next few years found baseball at its lowest ebb in many Iowa communities, but the game that had started so obscurely sixty odd years before had completed a phase of its development. Some of the excitement and some of the hilarity had left it; the cleavage between the professional player and the almost professional fan, who would as soon lose his right arm as miss a game, was nearly complete. Henceforth their influence upon each other was to be much less direct than it had been back in the sixties and seventies, when the heated players of one day were the coolly critical spectators of the next.

The story of the cyclic development sketched in these pages does not claim to be exhaustive or complete. Rather it is suggestive, a history of trends rather than of precise details and personalities. It is a brief story of a growth that was graphically American.

Professionalism, though occupying the center of public attention, did not completely absorb the public's interest. Busy youths in their leisure time still ran to vacant-lot diamonds and to city parks to play ball. And bruised knuckles and bumped heads of the earlier days were no longer the common or inevitable parts of the game.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL LOSSES

Among others during the past quarter, this department has lost two choice friends in the deaths of Orie Erb Klingaman and David C. Mott.

Mr. Klingaman served as Curator a short two years, but in that time brought a passionate devotion to the work of the department and the ends it sought to obtain. With a varied career in business and education behind him, with hobbies in scientific and cultural fields, and with museum experience elsewhere, he was eager to make his work in this department a creditable capstone to his career. Troubled with heart ailments, complications of which brought about his death, his hopes often outsped his energies, yet his was a sincerity and a devotion to the furtherance of the historical aims of the state that has left an impress upon the department.

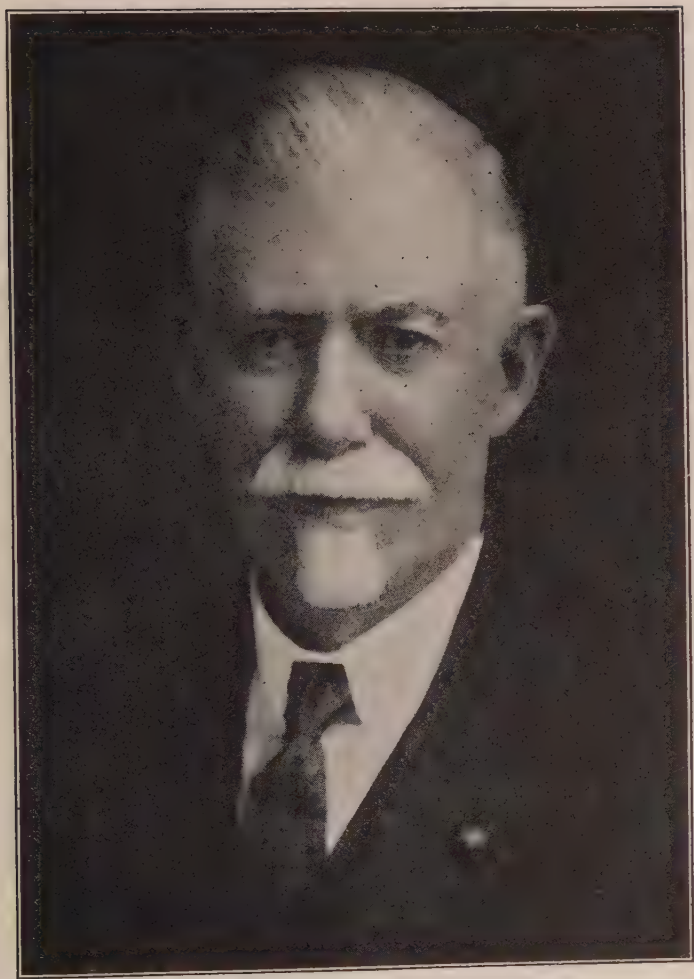
David C. Mott, whose eighty-three years of usefulness were cut short the eighth of March, left everywhere about him a bit of that kindly tolerance and good will which characterized his career. Associated with Edgar R. Harlan for eighteen years in the publication of the ANNALS OF IOWA, until his retirement in April, 1937, Mr. Mott made that magazine a faithful mirror of Iowa facts under the direction of Mr. Harlan. Careful, conscientious, and thorough, his was the kind of service the state everywhere could use more of, whether as a newspaper publisher, a legislator, state parole officer, or historian.

The close of the volume offers an appropriate place to recognize other losses among the staff of the department in the last two years. John P. Porterfield, former Superintendent of the Public Archives passed away fully two years ago, and just recently Miss Halla Rhode, for many years an educational assistant in the department until 1937, likewise passed away. Two others who with long records of service in the historical department died within the two year period, were Mrs. Emily Johnson, matron, yet who with her English brogue and kindly humor was much more than that, and Noah Woods, watchman, and enthusiastic Baptist Choir singer. These served eighteen and fifteen years respectively before their deaths, the former in 1939, the latter in 1940.



ORIE ERB KLINGAMAN

1875 — 1941



DAVID C. MOTT
1858 — 1941

NOTABLE DEATHS

FRANK F. JONES, former state legislator and a member of the state board of education, died in Villisca, Iowa, January 30, 1941. Born in the state of New York, August 25, 1855, he removed with the family first to Illinois, and later to Iowa in 1875. After a high school education he taught school, then entered business, finally establishing a hardware and implement store under his name.

Elected to the Thirtieth General Assembly as a Republican, he was re-elected the following two terms. In 1913 he was elected to the state senate, serving in the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth. At the close of the latter session he was appointed to the state board of education, serving one six year term. Interested in banking business as well as the hardware store, Mr. Jones also served his community on the town council of Villisca.

GEORGE W. DASHIELL, judge of the Second Judicial District, died in Albia, March 2, 1941. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dashiell, George W. was born in Albia November 1, 1869. Educated in Albia, and a graduate of DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, he studied law under his father, a former circuit court judge. Admitted to the bar in 1895, he practiced in Albia for a short while, then removed to Wyoming, later returning to Albia in 1921, to enter partnership with D. W. Bates. Elected to the district court bench in 1926, he retained that position until his death.

FRANK E. ELLIS, state senator and museum administrator, died in Maquoketa February 6, 1941. Born in Jackson County, Illinois, March 12, 1879, the son of J. W. and Mary Forbes Ellis, he early located with the family in Maquoketa. Active in insurance and real estate business, Mr. Ellis' hobby and center of interest was the Frank Ellis Museum of Archeology and Anthropology at Maquoketa, which he founded and maintained. He served in the Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth General Assemblies as the Democratic member from the twenty-third district.

JOHN CLARK HARTMAN, veteran newspaper publisher of the *Waterloo Courier*, died January 3, 1941. Born in Waterloo, June 21, 1861, the son of William H. and Dorinda Clark Hartman, and educated in the public schools, he early took up the newspaper business from his father, and for forty-five years was editor of the *Courier*. In 1935 he was designated a "Master Editor-Publisher" by the Iowa Press Association.

Active in Republican politics, and for a time chairman of the county central committee, the only elective office held was that of Playground and Park commissioner. He was an ardent advocate of wild life conservation. In 1915 he edited and published a History of Black Hawk County and its People.

LAFE HILL, newspaper publisher and state legislator, died December 31, at Nora Hill, Iowa. Born in Ringgold County, he taught school at Troy Mills and Walker in Linn County, was superintendent of schools at Seymour and other places in southern Iowa. In 1889 founded the North English *Record*, and in 1917 bought the Nora Springs *Advertiser*, and in 1935, the Rudd *Review*. Behind him at the time of his death were forty-five years in the newspaper business.

A republican in politics, he was a representative from Floyd County in the Forty-first to the Forty-third general assemblies, and represented that district in the state senate in the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth.

MURRAY LEE HUTTON, director of the State Conservation Commission, died February 18, 1941, of complications resulting from an automobile collision near Ames, Iowa. Born in Washington County, Iowa, in 1885, and educated at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, 1906-09, Hutton engaged in engineering work for several railroads in the years following 1909, later became county engineer of Louisa County, and also of Des Moines County too, several years later. Employed by the state highway commission in engineering capacities, Hutton was appointed to the permanent post as director of the State Conservation Commission May 30, 1935.

ORIE ERB KLINGAMAN, former Curator of the state historical department, died in Delmar, New York, January 25, 1941. Born on a farm in La Grange County, Indiana, July 7, 1875, the son of Jonathan and Jennie Klingaman, he came to Iowa in 1888. After teaching in the rural schools and in Guthrie Center, Creston, and Afton, he graduated from Highland Park College, Des Moines, and later, in 1913, he became the first director of the extension division of the State University of Iowa, serving until 1923. After business research work in New York and Boston, he returned to Des Moines to practice law, later removing to Davenport to become assistant director of the Davenport Public Museum in 1929. In 1937 he was appointed Curator of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa, assuming duties April 1, 1937.

During the World War Klingaman helped to organize the Red Cross drive in Iowa and aided in the education work of those years, as well as serving as director of Americanization for the state.

EARL C. MOORE, manager of the American Crystal Sugar Company of Mason City, died in that town January 10, 1941. Born in Johnstown, New York, July 11, 1875, most of his life was spent in the agricultural and agricultural manufacturing business. Agricultural manager of the Iowa Sugar Company of Waverly in 1916, he held the same position with the American Beet Sugar Company when that firm was formed. The latter company became the American Crystal Sugar Co. in 1925.

DANIEL WALTER MOREHOUSE, president of Drake University and internationally known scientist, died in Des Moines of heart complications January 21, 1941. Born in a log cabin near Mankato, Minnesota, February 22, 1876, the son of Aaron and Sabra Ann Morehouse, he was educated at Northwestern Christian College, Excelsior, Minnesota, and taught school for several terms in South Dakota before matriculating at Drake University in 1897. He also attended the University of Chicago, and received his Masters degree from Drake in 1902.

Joining the Drake faculty in 1900 following his graduation, he pursued his specialty of astronomy, gaining international fame for the discovery of the "Morehouse Comet" in 1908. In 1919 he was named dean of men of the Drake institution, and in 1923 elected president, retaining the deanship until 1930. Under his administration the college undertook and completed a large building program for student and library and athletic facilities.

Dr. Morehouse, an active and contributing member to his community, received the Community Service Award in 1928 for outstanding service to the city of Des Moines.

DAVID CHARLES MOTT, newspaper publisher and state servant, died in Helena, Oklahoma, March 8, 1941. Born in Washington County, Ohio, March 23, 1858, the son of George W. and Abigail B. Mott, he came with the family to Iowa in 1863. Educated in the Keokuk County schools, and in the Friends Boarding School of Barnsville, Ohio, he taught school in Keokuk County and followed farming until 1888, when he began the publication of the *What Cheer Patriot*, *What Cheer*, Iowa. His long association with the newspaper field continued with the publishing of the *Tipton Advertiser* from 1893 to 1897, the *Audubon Republican* from 1897 to 1905, and the *Elreno Daily American*, Elreno, Oklahoma, in which he held a half interest, from 1906 to 1907. In the latter year he returned to Iowa to publish the *Marengo Republican* until 1912.

In 1906 he began the first of two terms in the state legislature, and in 1911-1919 served as a member of the state board of Parole. In the latter year he was appointed editorial assistant in the state historical department, which position he continued to hold until his retirement in 1937.

WILLIAM HENRY STEPANEK, business man and state legislator, died in Cedar Rapids, February 10, 1941. Born on a farm in Johnson County, May 8, 1868, the son of Joseph and Anna Stepanek, and educated in the public schools and in a business college in Cedar Rapids, he early entered the hardware business in Cedar Rapids. Active in Civic affairs and holding numerous city offices of trust and responsibility, he was instrumental in the construction of the Memorial building, the removal of the county seat of Linn County from Marion to Cedar Rapids, and the construction of the present court house. He served one term in the state legislature, representing Linn County from 1925 to 1927.

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A HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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ORA WILLIAMS, EDITOR

KENNETH E. COLTON, ASST. EDITOR

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ERRATA

On page 609, the first paragraph, C. E. Nary should appear Narey.

On page 659, in the obituary of Lafe Hill, in line two the name of the town should read Nora Springs instead of Nora Hill.

